



COMPREHENSIVE BREAST CANCER INSTITUTE



Queensland Health Award for Excellence 2024 Winner

We were honoured to receive a Queensland Health Award for Excellence in the category of "Transforming Health" for our Intra-Operative Radiation Therapy (IORT) health service. The delivery of IORT is a Queensland first and is offered by STARS, Metro North Health. This innovative health service reduces three to six weeks of daily radiation for early stage breast cancer patients to less than 30 minutes.

COMPREHENSIVE BREAST CANCER INSTITUTE IMPACT SNAPSHOT

ADVOCATE. COLLABORATE. EDUCATE. INNOVATE.



Scan the QR code to read all the articles from 2024 or visit metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/cbci

Metro North Health



Queensland Government



Foreword

This is the Comprehensive Breast Cancer Institute's (CBCI) 2024 Impact Snapshot. The CBCI aims to improve the experiences and outcomes for patients accessing breast services in Metro North Health. Our goal is to facilitate best practice standardised breast care for patients through clinical care coordination, innovation, education, and research. We hope to inspire our stakeholders, our many care providers, and broader community to join with us in supporting this endeavour.

Professor Owen Ung
Director, Comprehensive Breast Cancer Institute
Metro North Health

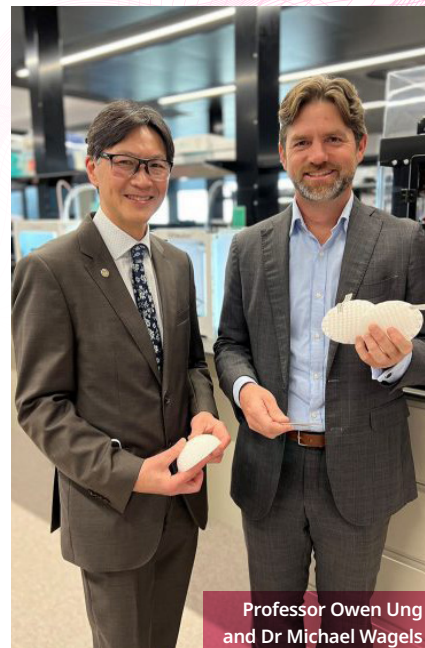


Scan the QR code to read all the articles from 2024.

IMPACT SNAPSHOT 2024

Scaffold-guided Breast Surgery Clinical Trial is a world first

Chief investigators Professor Owen Ung, RBWH Breast and Endocrine Surgeon and Director of the Comprehensive Breast Cancer Institute (CBCI); and Dr Michael Wagels, RBWH Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon and Clinical Director of the Herston Biofabrication Institute (HBI) have overseen an innovative breast reconstructive procedure by replacing defective silicone implants with bioresorbable scaffolds. The procedure uses a combination of the patient's own fat cells with a 3D printed polycaprolactone (PCL) scaffold to support soft tissue regeneration in the chest using the natural healing processes of the body.



Professor Owen Ung and Dr Michael Wagels

A full complement of staff

In 2024 we welcomed, for the first time, a full complement of CBCI staff. We now have staff filling the roles of Operations Director, Research Manager, Principal Data Analyst, and Administration Support Officer. Having these positions filled allows us to fully support a service model that defines the optimal care pathway to improve the experiences and outcomes for people accessing breast services in Metro North Health.



Leah Milburn-Walker
Operations Director



Dr Gregor Kijanka
Research Manager



Danielle Ford
Principal Data Analyst



Tash Muscat
Administration Support Officer

Thank you to the RBWH Foundation

CBCI's high standard of work would not be possible without the support of the RBWH Foundation. We would like to thank them for their ongoing support and sponsorship. The RBWH Foundation is the charity that supports RBWH, STARS, and other prestigious research Institutes and Centres at the Herston Health Precinct, helping to fund life-saving research and advances in patient care. The RBWH Foundation team works closely with individuals, families, and organisations to connect with causes that truly make a difference.



Community Engagement



“Congratulations to the team on an extremely successful CBCI community forum this morning. It was an excellent program, wonderful speakers, great panel discussion and a fantastic networking opportunity. Leah spoke beautifully and the message you conveyed was inspiring. We felt very honoured to be involved, thank you. Thank you again on such a success.”

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FORUM

Breast Cancer Awareness Month CBCI Community Forum

In October, we hosted a community forum to acknowledge Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Over 170 health consumers, community groups, passionate clinicians, and researchers attended the event at the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital Education Centre.

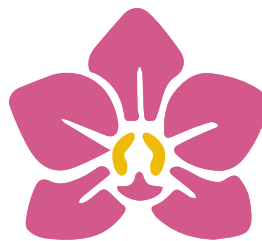
GP Education Event

The Comprehensive Breast Cancer Institute hosted a GP Education Event. Medical oncologists, breast surgeons, breast care nurses, radiologists, an endocrinologist and geneticist presented three hours of breast information and education to community GPs.



The Orchid Press

Our quarterly newsletter, “The Orchid Press” was distributed across our community throughout 2024. We shared information on community forums, breast cancer support businesses and organisations, breast screening, patient stories, research, member spotlights, and health and wellness.



NAIDOC Week

During July we had the privilege of attending the NAIDOC Community Fun Day at Zillmere and Caboolture in partnership with the Metro North Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Team. Our aim is to provide culturally appropriate, safe, and equitable breast care services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Our CALD Communities

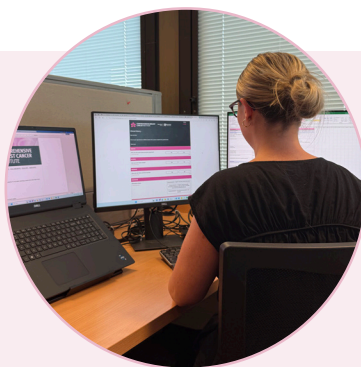
We arranged the translation of our CBCI poster from English into Chinese, Arabic, and Persian languages to support the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Community!





Comprehensive Symptomatic & Diagnostic Breast Clinic

Late 2024, Metro North Health was selected by the Department of Health to develop and implement a four-year trial of a Comprehensive Symptomatic & Diagnostic Breast Clinic - the first of its kind in Queensland.



Building Metro North's First Comprehensive Breast Cancer Database

CBCI are building Metro North its first comprehensive breast cancer database which will allow all facilities to capture their breast cancer data. A comprehensive data collection for breast cancer patients will support clinical breast services across Metro North, enabling real-time access to patient information, improving decision-making, enhancing coordination of care, and driving better outcomes.



Commencement of Intra-Operative Radiation Therapy (IORT)

In 2023, the IORT service was part of a 12-month implementation trial at STARS advocated by the CBCI. Following a rigorous evaluation, including patient reported outcomes, the benefit of this innovation was clear, and the service was formally commenced in 2024. This Queensland first service is suitable for patients with early-stage breast cancer undergoing resection of the primary breast tumour. The IORT service delivers a single therapeutic dose to the lumpectomy bed.

Our Year

Steering Committee

- Terms reviewed in Jan
- Met in Mar, Jun, Jul, and Sep
- Evaluation conducted in Oct

Clinical Advisory

- Met in Jan, Mar, May, and Jun
- Terms reviewed in May
- Evaluation conducted in Oct

Community Engagement

- Terms reviewed in Jan
- Met in Feb, Mar, Apr, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov, and Dec
- Evaluation conducted in Oct

Research Committee

- Research Manager started in Oct

Supervision of PhD Student

Lawrence Lu has embarked on his PhD journey with the Comprehensive Breast Cancer Institute under Professor Owen Ung's supervision. His research examines the clinical, psychological, and health economic aspects of intraoperative radiation therapy compared to traditional radiotherapy.



Designer Scrubs for our Clinicians

We collaborated with the RBWH Breast and Endocrine Department to design scrubs specifically for the Comprehensive Breast Cancer Institute. Now Metro North breast departments have the option of wearing CBCI scrubs, especially during Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



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