



Dear colleagues,

We are pleased to announce the finalists for the 2025 Metro North Research Excellence Awards.

Metro North continues to be a leader in health and medical research and we are very proud of the impressive work recognised in our selection of finalists.

Please take a moment to join us in congratulating our finalists. We look forward to celebrating together at the Research Excellence Awards ceremony.

#### Research Implementation Award Finalists:

- ***Increasing the availability of ultrasound-guided vascular access through research, implementation and education***, Team Members: Dr Nathan Peters, Dr Frances Williamson, Adam Treblico, Professor Claire Rickard, Dr Joel Thomas, Ms Christine Woods, Dr Adrian Chin & Dr Gerard Eames. Metro North Facility: Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.
- ***Evaluation of a hub-and-spoke model of care for the delivery of sleep disorder services to a remote Australian community using the RE-AIM framework***, Team Members: Dr Irene Szollosi, Sophia Worley, Dr Sameera Senanayake, Adj Associate Professor Sanjeewa Kularatna, Dr Deanne Curtin. Metro North Facility: The Prince Charles Hospital.
- ***Co-designing a nested diabetes service for adults living with Cystic Fibrosis and Diabetes***, Team Members: Dr Shanal Kumar, Angela Matson, Vanessa Moore, Felicity Loel, Dr Daniel Smith. Metro North Facility: The Prince Charles Hospital.

#### Discovery Award Finalists:

- ***Allogeneic T cell therapy for SARS-CoV-2***, Team Members: Associate Professor Andrea Henden, Associate Professor Corey Smith, Dr Kate Lineburg. Metro North Facility: Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital
- ***Application of machine learning to swallowing sounds to better detect aspiration in infants and children***, Team Members: Adj Associate Professor Thuy Frakking, Dr Belinda Schwerin, Dr Stephen So, Dr Seiji Humphries, Professor Anne Chang, Annelise Kyriakou, Dr Melissa Lai, Professor Michael David. Metro North Facility: Caboolture & Kilcoy Hospitals, Woodford Corrections
- ***Spider venom peptides: precision therapy for genetic epilepsy***, Team Members: Associate Professor Lata Vadlamudi, Professor Ernst Wolvetang, Professor Glenn King, Associate Professor Nathan Palpant, Professor Christopher Reid, Professor

Ingrid Scheffer, Professor Terence O'Brien, Professor Patrick Kwan. Metro North Facility: Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

#### Clinical Research Award Finalists:

- ***Securing jugular central venous catheters with dressings fixed to a novel liquid adhesive in an Intensive Care Unit population: The STICKY Study***, Team Members: Professor Nicole Marsh, Dr Amanda Corley, Catherine O'Brien, Emily Larsen, Associate Professor Evan Alexandrou, Dr Patrick Harris, Professor Kevin Laupland, Professor Robert Ware. Metro North Facility: Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital
- ***Perioperative Patient Blood Management - "Saving lives, saving blood, saving precious resources and improving patient outcomes"***, Team Members: Associate Professor Michelle Roets, Dr Julie Lee, Professor Victoria Eley, Professor Rebecca Kimble, Professor Andre van Zundert, Professor David Sturgess, Dr Melinda Dean, Christine Woods. Metro North Facility: Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.
- ***RBWH Burns MDT Program of Research***, Team Members: Dr Andrea Mc Kittrick, Dr Jason Brown, Aleksandra Edmundson. Metro North Facility: Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.

#### Partnering with Consumers Award Finalists:

- ***Scott Harding***, Team Members: Scott Harding & Dr Lisa Anemaat. Metro North Facility: Specialist, Treatment and Rehabilitation Service (STARS).
- ***Consumers in Research, Redcliffe Hospital***, Team Members: Jane Geltch, Associate Professor Joel Dulhunty, Associate Professor Amanda Fox, Fiona Malcolm, Dr Jacqui Peet. Metro North Facility: Redcliffe Hospital
- ***Co-designing The Healthy Gut Diet: A partnership with lived experience experts***, Team Members: Dr Nina Meloncelli, Associate Professor Susan de Jersey, Associate Professor Shelley Wilkinson, Hannah O'Connor, Dr Kelsey Pateman, Samantha Gallaher, Associate Professor Lauren Kearney, Alita Rushton. Metro North Facility: Metro North. Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, STARS

#### Research Support Award Finalists:

- ***TPCH Allied Health Research Collaborative***, Team Members: Associate Professor Jack Bell, Professor Norm Morris, Associate Professor Peter Lazzarini, Dr Hannah Gullo, Dr Sara Winter, Dr Lisa Franks, Dr Michelle Cottrell, Perry Judd. Metro North Facility: The Prince Charles Hospital.
- ***Redcliffe Intensive Care Follow-up Clinic***, Team Members: Dr Stuart Baker, Kylie Jacobs, Dr Alexis Tabah, Laura Smith, Emma Proctor. Metro North Facility: Redcliffe Hospital.
- ***Integrated CANcer REsearch (I-CARE) Collaborative - Clinical Trials***, Team Members: Amy Ives, Jacqui Keller, Robyn Western, Associate Professor Melissa Eastgate, Michael Smith, Cameron Curley, Associate Professor David Wyld, Dr Penny Mackenzie. Metro North Facility: Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.

#### Rising Star Award Finalists:

- ***Dr Natasha Roberts***, Specialist Nurse & Conjoint Nursing Clinical Research Fellow, STARS
- ***Dr Samantha Bunzli***, Conjoint Senior Research Fellow, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital
- ***Dr Sarah Andersen***, Advanced Dietitian, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

#### Researcher of the Year Award Finalists:

- **Professor Claire Rickard**, Conjoint Professor of Infection Prevention & Vascular Access, Herston Infectious Diseases Institute (HeIDI)
- **Professor Kevin Laupland**, Director of Research, Intensive Care Services, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital
- **Professor Pamela Ann McCombe**, Senior Staff Specialist Neurology, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

Finalists will receive an email from [MetroNorthResearch@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:MetroNorthResearch@health.qld.gov.au) with an invitation to the 2025 Metro North Research Excellence Awards ceremony on the evening of the 21 August 2025.

The Metro North Research Excellence Awards and Summit are sponsored by Platinum Sponsors QUT, RBWH Foundation, TPCF Foundation, The University of Queensland, and Gold Sponsor QIMR Berghofer.

Regards,  
Jackie and Steven

**Metro North Health**



We uphold our commitment to health equity through our Values in Action  
Respect | Integrity | Compassion | High Performance | Teamwork



Metro North Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Land upon which we live, work and walk, and pay our respects to Elders both past and present.

#### **Metro North Health's vision**

Creating healthier futures together—where innovation and research meets compassionate care and community voices shape our services.



**Queensland  
Government**

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