

Metro North Health message from the

# Acting Chief Executive and Executive Director, Research

Stephen Eaton | Prof. Steven Lane



## Summary:

- Announcement of 2026 Metro North Research Excellence Award finalists & Clinician Research Fellowship recipients

Message feedback



Audience: All staff



Read: 4 min



For: Information

Dear colleagues,

We are pleased to announce the finalists of the **Metro North Research Excellence Awards** and the recipients of the **Clinician Research Fellowships** for 2026.

Metro North continues to be a leader in health and medical research, and we are very proud of the impressive work being undertaken by our selection of finalists and fellowship recipients. Their work is critical to advancing health care through supporting new ways to treat, diagnose and prevent serious health conditions within our community.

## Research Excellence Award finalists

### Research Implementation Award

- Evaluating the Implementation of the Ambassador Occupational Violence Prevention Program
- From First-in-Human Innovation to Sustainable Clinical Care: Implementing Robotic Bronchoscopy at RBWH
- Metro North Post-Intensive Care Follow-up Clinic

### Discovery Award

- Microbiome driven solutions in Transplant and Cell Therapy
- Community Opioid Dispensing after Injury: population-based data linkage studies (CODI & CODI-II)
- ENT Research Team - Botulinum Toxin Type A for Rhinitis Pilot

### Clinical Research Award

- RBWH Neuromuscular Research
- DrumBeat.ai: Artificial Intelligence to Triage Indigenous Ear Disease
- Redcliffe Intensive Care Unit Research Program

### Partnering with Consumers Award

- Transforming person-centred care through quality consumer and community involvement in research
- Supporting Fathers/Partners Project
- Measuring What Matters – Co-designing nutrition research with consumers

### Research Support Award

- QUT–Metro North Nursing and Midwifery Research Internship Programme
- TPCCH Allied Health Research Collaborative Group
- Metro North Mental Health Research Team

### Professor Joan Webster Nursing and Midwifery Award

- Dr Grace Xu
- Dr Andrea Taylor
- Dr Natasha Roberts

### Rising Star Award

- Dr Natasha Roberts
- Dr Grace Xu
- A/Prof Carla Scuderi

### Researcher of the Year Award

- Professor Norm Morris
- Professor Zarnie Lwin OAM
- Professor Claire Rickard

Details of finalists' research are [available online](#).

We look forward to celebrating together at the Metro North Research Excellence Awards ceremony on 30 July 2026 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

## Metro North Health Research Summit

The Metro North Health Research Summit will be held during the day prior to the awards.

The 2026 Summit will focus on the transformation of healthcare through innovation.

Hear from Metro North researchers, local and national experts who are driving transformation in healthcare through research:

- Professor Jennie Hudson on the impact of social media and technology on the mental health development of children across their lifecourse
- Mr Adam Spencer - laugh and learn with one of Australia's most dynamic and engaging minds
- Industry and academic experts on the future of heart and lung research
- Metro North clinician researchers who are driving healthcare innovation.

Join us on Thursday 30 July 2026, 9am-5pm at Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre. Tickets are free and places are limited.

Register

More information

## Clinician Research Fellowship recipients

### Dr Julie Lee (Anaesthesia, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital)

*Management of caesarean section-related obstetric haemorrhage in Australian public hospitals (MACRO-AUS): a multicentre, prospective, observational study applying mixed methodology.*

Julie's program of research will include a multicentre, prospective, observational study of the epidemiology and management of intra- and post-operative postpartum haemorrhage following elective and emergency caesarean sections, focussing on optimising the role of the anaesthetist. She will lead a national, multidisciplinary collaboration to generate high-quality, multi-institutional data across diverse patient populations, with the aim to establish Metro North as a national leader in perioperative blood management.



### Dr Elizabeth Goode (Gastroenterology, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital)

*Decoding the Regulatory Architecture of Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis Risk at Single-Cell Resolution to guide Therapeutic Discovery.*

Elizabeth's research aims to decode primary sclerosing cholangitis (PSC) genetic risk at single-cell resolution to guide therapeutic discovery. PSC is a cholestatic liver disease with no effective therapy and high risk of liver failure and malignancy. She will create a high-resolution atlas of cell type-specific chromatin accessibility in the human liver using publicly available snATAC-seq datasets, identifying regulatory elements in liver and immune cells.



### Dr Usha Gurunathan (Anaesthesia, The Prince Charles Hospital)

*Optimising prevention of thromboembolism through an integrated artificial intelligence, clinical data and surveillance approach in hip fracture surgery.*

Usha's vision is to provide safer, more precise care for older Australians with hip fractures by reducing preventable venous thromboembolism (VTE), while enhancing Metro North's reputation for innovation-driven, evidence-based perioperative care. Her Fellowship will integrate three complementary studies building on her PhD research; to advance personalised (VTE)-risk assessment and strengthen VTE prevention across the hip fracture pathway.



### Dr Peter Window (Physiotherapy, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital)

*KinEasy VR: The development and implementation of a VR package to address kinesiophobia in persistent spinal pain.*

Peter's vision is to co-design, develop and pilot an evidence-based application with associated implementation toolkit in clinical settings that can support interventions for kinesiophobia by addressing protecting behaviours and facilitating a return to normal movement. Pain-related fear of movement, or kinesiophobia, is commonly a



feature of persistent spinal pain. Interventions aim to reduce the perceived threat of movement and reconceptualise it as safe but require extensive clinician input.

Please join us in congratulating our 2026 award finalists and fellowship recipients.

Regards,  
Stephen 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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