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Message from the Director

Welcome to the refreshed and relaunched **Research@Royal**, the RBWH Research newsletter. Here, we will share some of the success stories of research at RBWH, describe how research is being implemented into practice, and provide news about opportunities to start and grow your research program. This month, we reflect on the annual Symposium, introduce some new faces in the Research team and highlight how researchers in Cancer Care are helping to develop personalised cancer treatments that reduce the risk of chemotherapy side effects. *We would like you to share your research stories with your colleagues.* Please submit your content by emailing Leah at the address at the bottom of the newsletter.

Cancer Care Superstars

Innovative trial to reduce treatment toxicity for cancer patients.

The cancer care services team are currently running an innovative multi-centre clinical trial to offer patients a rapid test to help identify those at higher risk of developing severe adverse reactions from a certain type of chemotherapy. The trial, possible with support from a Metro North Health SEED grant, requires patients provide a simple blood test to analyse parts of their DNA prior to commencing chemotherapy. Led by Medical Oncology Clinical Fellow, Dr Mark Nalder, the blood test looks for variants in a specific gene called DPYD. Those with variants of this gene are more likely to have low levels of an enzyme needed to breakdown a certain type of chemotherapy called fluoropyrimidines. Those with a variant are treated with a lower dose or are switched to a different type of treatment.

“There is compelling evidence that patients with certain DPYD gene variants are at much higher risk of severe toxicity, including fatal outcomes when treated with fluoropyrimidines at full dose. This type of personalised cancer care can significantly reduce the rates of severe adverse events and hospital admissions for our patients”. Dr Nalder said.

Prospective DPYD testing has recently been mandated as standard of care in Europe, however this is the first time routine, prospective DPYD testing has been offered in a public hospital in Queensland.

“We hope that this testing establishes the value and feasibility of this type of testing into the future. Personalised medicine, including pharmacogenomics is an exciting area of research and we will see an increasing amount of genomics integrated into routine care moving forward”.

The trial is currently recruiting RBWH, North Lakes Health Precinct and The Prince Charles Hospital and aims to recruit

over 250 patients prior to July. The research team are planning to publish the results in the second half of 2022.

Symposium 2021

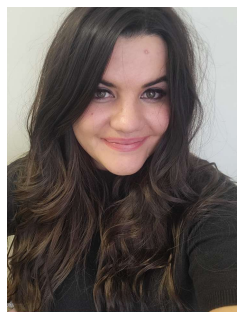


And that is a wrap!!

The 2021 Herston Health Care Symposium team has once again proven that not even COVID can hold them back. This year the five-day event was based around ‘Healthcare Innovations’, where Genomics, eHealth and machine learning / artificial intelligence were the main themes presented, along with a strong focus on the current COVID-19 pandemic. Professor Jeffrey Lipman was able to use his extensive contact list to organise a keynote Lecture from Professor Leonardo Seoane (Oschner Medical Centre) which drew in the largest audience both online and onsite.

As the Symposium marked the end of era for Professor Lipman, the scientific committee surprised Professor Lipman with naming one of the awards in his honour 'The inaugural Jeffrey Lipman Award for Best Translational Research into Practice Award'. A massive 'Thank You' to Professor Lipman for all the hard work and dedication you have provided over the previous years. We hope we will continue to benefit from your knowledge and wisdom for many years to come.

New Faces Around Campus



Krystin Egan joined the RBWH Research Services team this month in the Grants Manager, RBWH Research Services position. Krystin has a background in grants management and philanthropy within both the Queensland Government and the not-for-profit sector, most recently with the Queensland Library Foundation at State Library of Queensland.



Kate Exley has joined the RBWH Research team as the Business Support Officer. Since starting at the RBWH in 2019, Kate has been very lucky to experience many different roles and has been exposed to the wide calibre of talent across RBWH HHS and DOH. Kate has worked in areas including the mail room, PPE coordinator and Business Support Officer in Professional Services. Of course, having developed a keen interest in finance, Kate is really looking forward to working with the Research team and trust that her previous experience of different areas will allow her to provide ongoing support.

Research, a Year in Review

Having trouble remembering when tasks are due? Needing a reminder when a date is fast approaching? Well you are in luck! To help manage an increasingly packed Research schedule, in 2022 we will launch a 'Research Year Overview, a simple chart available on our website to help plan applications, reports and attendance at events. This will contain important dates, i.e. Grants Management, Research Reporting deadlines and of course the Herston Healthcare symposium, with hints and tips about how to find further information.

Annual Research Reporting

Is it that time already, ALMOST!! As the year is going by so quickly, it is almost time to share not only your research outcomes, but research activity, grants received as well as publications including journal articles, books and conference presentations. The 2021 report will be collated by Leah Svenson, who has previous experience in collating the 2018 / 2019 report. Leah will be the main contact for any questions or concerns and unfortunately will bother you with emails during the course of this process. So, if you receive any emails from the following email account please do not ignore RBWH-Research-AdminCoord@health.qld.gov.au. In late November / early December, the template for the 2021 report will be distributed to Service line ESO's for distribution among staff.