



Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

RBWH Research Report 2025

Internal Medicine and Emergency Services

Metro North
Health



Queensland
Government



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.

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Internal Medicine and Emergency Services



Professor Keshwar Baboolal
Executive Director
Internal Medicine Services

Internal Medicine and Emergency Services (IMES) continues to support a dynamic, clinician-led research culture across the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. In 2025, IMES delivered a diverse portfolio of clinical trials, translational research, and health service improvement initiatives spanning multiple specialties.

Across IMES, research activity included:

- More than 40 active clinical trials and major studies across specialties, including Neurology, Cardiology, Emergency Medicine, Infectious Diseases, Kidney Health Services, Respiratory Medicine and Sexual Health.
- Research funding exceeded \$12 million
- 15 competitive research grants across IMES departments
- 5 PhD completions were reported in 2025, with ongoing supervision of higher degree research students across Cardiology, Internal Medicine and Aged Care and the Emergency and Trauma Centre
- Over 20 active research projects within the Emergency and Trauma Centre.

Research programs were collaborative, partnering with universities, research institutes, statewide services, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, The University of Queensland and national networks. These cooperative efforts support improvement in cardiovascular, gastroenterology, digital health, genomics and respiratory medicine.

Several departments remain leaders in clinical trial recruitment, especially in cardiology, neurology, and gastroenterology. These programs give patients access to new therapies and help guide future care standards.

Equity of access to care is a key component of the IMES research strategy, with research supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, regional services, and telemedicine to reduce care disparities.

IMES research drives national clinical guidelines, policy, and service redesign in acute coronary syndromes, concussion, medication safety, and chronic disease management.

Research Excellence Highlights:

- Professor David Reutens (Neurology) is recognised as a Stanford/Elsevier Top 2% Scientist globally, placing him among the most-cited researchers worldwide for his sustained contributions to epilepsy and neurological research.
- Professor Louise Cullen (Emergency and Trauma Centre) led the development of the National Heart Foundation and Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand clinical guidelines for diagnosing and managing acute coronary syndromes.
- Associate Professor Sandhir Prasad (Cardiology), who was awarded a Metro North Clinician Research Fellowship, is leading the ECHO Guide Study, with international presentations and publications in journals focused on improving post-myocardial infarction risk stratification.
- Dr Julian Williams (Emergency and Trauma Centre) was awarded a research fellowship to advance the diagnosis and treatment of sepsis, supporting high-impact translational research in emergency care.
- Dr Elizabeth McCourt (Clinical Pharmacology) led the inaugural statewide Pharmacy Research Workshop, bringing together all Queensland Hospital and Health Services to establish coordinated research priorities and strengthen collaboration.
- Ms Courtney Jarrett (Thoracic Medicine), PhD candidate and Senior Sleep Scientist, won the Australasian Sleep Association New Investigator Award for research on telemedicine models improving access to sleep services for regional patients.

On behalf of the IMES Executive team, I would like to commend and thank IMES staff for their commitment and continued contributions to research that supports healthcare into the future.

Department of Cardiology

Research highlights

The Department of Cardiology has a broad investigator-driven research programme, including 1-2 PhD's awarded each year. We had Co-Chief Investigator's with 2 further MRFF grants awarded in 2025, in addition to 9 ongoing MRFF grants. We have a busy clinical trials research programme with RBWH Cardiology being the worldwide or national top recruiting site for many of these trials. This is a tribute to the hard-working study coordinators and cardiology registrars, who support these studies.

The Annual Scientific Meeting of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand (CSANZ) was held in Brisbane in 2025, with Dr David Cross as Convenor and Associate Professor Sandhir Prasad as Co-chair of the Scientific Programme Committee. This meeting had a record number of research abstracts presented and the largest ever number of registrants (>2,000). Professor Parsonage was elected the incoming CSANZ President. We also have staff holding high-level editorial positions, including Editorial Consultant (Heart Failure) for the Journal of the American College of Cardiology.

The **Practical Implementation Of advaNcEd Echocardiography (PIONEER) Research Group** are evaluating the value-add of novel echocardiographic technologies. Associate Professor Sandhir Prasad was awarded a Metro North Clinician Research Fellowship (2022-2025) to undertake the Echocardiography Guided Prognosis Following Myocardial Infarction: Redefining Risk Stratification to Improve Patient Outcomes (ECHO Guide Study). This has led to presentations in international meetings and publications in high-impact journals. Drs Ada Lo and Laura Stephensen were awarded their PhDs in 2025. Dr Lo evaluated novel echocardiographic modalities in the diagnosis and assessment of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. Her studies provided novel insights into the mechanism of dynamic obstruction in hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and demonstrated the value of multiparametric models to distinguish different causes of left ventricular hypertrophy and distinguish genotype positive and negative family members. Dr Stephensen evaluated the characteristics and outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with suspected acute coronary syndrome, demonstrating they were more likely to present with atypical symptoms and had a high burden of cardiac risk factors.

The **Cardiovascular Telemedicine Program** continues to deliver high-quality cardiac investigations to rural and regional sites and has expanded its reach to other centres throughout Queensland. This program has reduced waiting times, increased access (especially for Indigenous patients), decreased inequity and improved service quality for regional centres. The initial deployment of a robot-assisted echocardiography service is undergoing further evaluation in two regional sites in Queensland, with the aim being to provide timely access to echocardiography.

We have unique cardiac obstetric (collaboration with Obstetric Medicine / Internal Medicine and Aged Care) and cardiac genetic (collaboration with Genetic Health Queensland) services receiving statewide referrals and undertaking collaborative research. Other research interests include chest pain evaluation (collaboration with Emergency and Trauma Centre / Internal Medicine and Aged Care) and using salivary biomarkers to manage heart failure. We contribute to the Queensland Cardiac Outcomes Registry (QCOR), which evaluates the quality of healthcare in patients receiving interventional, electrophysiology, pacing, heart failure, and cardiac rehabilitation services: [2024 QCOR Annual Report](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0033/1478481/cardiac-outcomes-annual-report-2024.pdf) (https://www.health.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0033/1478481/cardiac-outcomes-annual-report-2024.pdf). The interventional component of QCOR also contributes to the National Cardiac Registry: [2024 Annual Status Report | National Cardiac Registry](https://nationalcardiacregistry.org.au/2024-annual-status-report/) (<https://nationalcardiacregistry.org.au/2024-annual-status-report/>).

Successful Research Higher Degree (e.g. MPhil or PhD) candidates in 2025

Name	Degree (e.g. MPhil or PhD)	Title	Month Completed	Affiliated University	Summary
Dr Ada Lo 	PhD	Use of novel echocardiographic modalities in the diagnosis and assessment of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy	May 2025	University of Queensland	This PhD demonstrated that novel echocardiographic modalities (i.e. speckle tracking imaging and colour M-mode flow propagation) are useful in the diagnosis and assessment of suspected hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM). Speckle tracking echocardiography can play a vital role in the discrimination of HCM from other phenocopies and the early identification of preclinical HCM mutation carriers. My PhD also provided mechanistic insights into the underlying pathophysiology of dynamic left ventricular outflow tract obstruction.
Dr Larua Stephensen	PhD	Characteristics and outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with suspected acute coronary syndrome	Dec 2025	Queensland University of Technology	This research program examined the clinical characteristics, symptomatology, predictive cardiac risk-factors, costs of health assessment, and safety of diagnostic pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who present to an emergency department with suspected acute coronary syndrome, otherwise known as possible heart attacks. Whilst this research demonstrated the safety of current assessment strategies, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were more likely to present with atypical symptoms and had high burdens of traditional cardiac risk-factors. Exploration of assessment strategies that include early and opportunistic objective cardiac testing for underlying coronary artery disease should be prioritised.

Research Awards and Achievements

Recipient (RBWH staff in bold)	Award	Event
Sandhir Prasad	Metro North Clinician Research Fellowship (2022-2025)	
W Parsonage, L Cullen, J Greenslade, L Stephensen (Powerful Pictures Study Team)	Inaugural Emergency Medicine Foundation Award (2025)	Australian College of Emergency Medicine Annual Scientific Meeting

Research Grants

Investigator Names (RBWH staff in bold)	RBWH Departments / Research Groups	Research Project Title	Granting Body	Total Awarded (whole all years)	Length of Awards in years and years active
Cullen L, Parsonage W, Stephensen L, Mahoney R, Greenslade J, Ihdayhid A, Chew D, Tyack Z, Goodman A, Cramb S, Starmer G, McKivett A, Figtree G, McCreanor V, Hillis G	Emergency Trauma Centre, Cardiology	Picture This: A new model of care for tackling heart attacks with First Nations Australians (The Powerful Pictures Study)	MRFF Cardiovascular Health Mission (No. MRF2022811)	\$1,488,717	5 years 2022-2026
S McPhail, R Justo, W Parsonage, B Auld, A Barnett, S Kularatna, K Eagleson, N White, B Abell, S Bora	Cardiology	CHD LIFE+ family-centered care models supporting long-term neurodevelopment	MRFF Cardiovascular Health Mission	\$2,997,258	5 years 2020-2025
S Shah, T Yanes, K Greaves, A Henders, M Nisar, J McGaughran, J Atherton, H Akbar, L Yengo, A Webster.	Cardiology, Genetic Health Queensland	The South Asian Genes and Health in Australia Study.	2024 MRFF Genomics Health Futures (No. 2044963)	\$997,446	2 years 2025-2026
J Yu, S-Y Ooi, BG Luxan, L Jorm, N Lovell, N Taylor, A Sverdlov, J Greenwood, S Jan, J Atherton, A Lee, C Alexopoulos, JK French, A Lee, V Blake, JCH Chan, S Liang, P Brown, A Argha.	Cardiology	Intelligent Dashboard for Heart Failure (ID-HF) to improve uptake of optimal heart failure care.	2024 MRFF Cardiovascular Health Mission (No. 2041733)	\$3,909,725	5 years 2025-2030
S Prasad, W Parsonage, J Atherton	Cardiology	Machine Learning to Predict Survival Following Myocardial Infarction	NHF Vanguard Grant	\$69,000	1 year 2024-2025
R Maddison, C Sullivan, B Oldenburg, L Woods, Y Zhang, J Atherton, A Driscoll, J Spinks, R Vasa, G Abbott, J Rawstorn, H Koorts, R Oqueli.	Cardiology	Digital-enabled solutions to improve healthcare delivery: Transforming outcomes for heart failure in Australia (SMART; Self-Management and Remote Technologies).	MRFF 2023 Cardiovascular Health Mission (No. MRF2033478)	\$945,530	2 years 2024-2026

Investigator Names (RBWH staff in bold)	RBWH Departments / Research Groups	Research Project Title	Granting Body	Total Awarded (whole all years)	Length of Awards in years and years active
J Ingles, A La Gerche, J Bray, M Dennis, E Paratz, J Atherton , C Arnott, S Munot, D Stub, L Yeates, S Cartledge, B Gray, Z Nehme, V Patel.	Cardiology	Improving outcomes and survivorship following sudden cardiac arrest in the young (IMPROVE-SCA).	MRFF 2023 Cardiovascular Health Mission (No. MRF2034307)	\$4,999,576	5 years 2025-2029
C Chow, T Shaw, A Godinho, G Hillis, G Luscombe, S Marschner, L Laranjo, J Verjans, S Jan, A Cass, D Chew, M Makeham, M Sarkies, N Kangaharan, J Atherton (listed as AIA as he was CI on another application in this stream)	Cardiology	CARDIOvascular support for patients after disCHARGE - CardioCHARGE	MRFF 2023 Cardiovascular Health Mission (No. MRF2035227)	\$2,995,587	4 years 2024-2028
N Falconer, N Cottrell, I Coombes , S Wilkinson, K Robertson, W Wang, J Miles, J Atherton , C Snoswell, V Bryce, S Carson, A Jones, L Marshman, M Barras, K De Guzman	Pharmacy and Cardiology	REducing hospital re-admission for high-risk CARDiology patients (RECARD).	MRFF 2022 Quality, Safety and Effectiveness of Medicine Use and Medicine Intervention by Pharmacists	\$2,500,000	5 years 2023-2027
J Ingles, D MacArthur, J Skinner, R Weintraub, C Semsarian, J McGaughran , Z Stark, D Zentner, J Atherton , I Konstantinov, O Siggs, I Deveson, R Bagnall, J Vandenberg, B Gray.	Genetic Health QLD, Cardiology	The Elusive Hearts Study: Using genomics to diagnose and manage inherited cardiovascular diseases.	MRFF 2022 Cardiovascular Health Mission (No. MRF2024269)	\$1,499,286	3 years 2023-2025

Investigator Names (RBWH staff in bold)	RBWH Departments / Research Groups	Research Project Title	Granting Body	Total Awarded (whole all years)	Length of Awards in years and years active
A Driscoll, A Hutchinson, L Orellana, J Atherton , R Audehm, A Beauchamp, P Newton, E Zomer, G Lowe, S Cartledge, A Pereira-Salgado, M Pollock.	Cardiology	SAFE-HF - tranSlating heArt Failure guidELines into practice: a RCT of a Nurse Practitioner primary care service.	MRFF 2022 Clinician Researchers - Nurses Midwives and Allied Health (No. MRF2023188)	\$1,488,730	4 years 2023-2026
A Driscoll, A Hutchinson, L Orellana, J Atherton , D Prior, C Reid, C De Pasquale, P Newton, R Audehm, E Zomer.	Cardiology	I-HEART – Implementation of HEART failure guidelines in Regional AusTalia top up funding	HCF Foundation.	\$319,000	3 years 2022-2025
C Chow, G Hillis, D Brieger, A Sverdllov, J Atherton , L Thomas, R Lindley, C Ferguson, PJ Devereaux, D Conen.	Cardiology	Anticoagulation for Stroke Prevention In patients with Recent Episodes of perioperative Atrial Fibrillation after noncardiac surgery - The ASPIRE-AF trial	MRFF 2021 International Clinical Trial Collaborations ICTC 21-1 (No. MRF2015330)	\$1,816,175	5 years 2022-2026
D Ford, A Driscoll, A Hutchinson, L Orellana, J Atherton , D Prior, C Reid, C De Pasquale, P Newton, R Audehm, E Zomer.	Cardiology	RURAL-HEART- Implementation of Heart failure guidelines in Rural Australia	Primary care Rural Innovative Multidisciplinary Models (PRIMM) Round 2. (No. GO5102)	\$399,938	5 years 2022-2026
T Briffa, J Redfern, D Chew, J Atherton , G Hillis, S Nicholls, D Brieger, J Rankin, A Maiorana, C Budgeon.	Cardiology	Secondary Prevention for All in Need (SPAN) after Type 1 myocardial infarction: a comparative effectiveness randomised trial	Heart Foundation 2020 Secondary Prevention Strategic Grant (No. 105531)	\$999,034	5 years 2021-2025
A Driscoll, A Hutchinson, L Orellana, J Atherton , D Prior, C Reid, C De Pasquale, P Newton, R Audehm, E Zomer.	Cardiology	I-HEART – Implementation of HEART failure guidelines in Regional AusTalia	NHMRC 2020 Partnership Projects PRC1 (No. 2005589)	\$1,260,000 from NHMRC \$3,000,000 from partners	5 years 2021-2025

RBWH Department / Research Group Led Research Activity

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Augustine Mugwagwa	Karam Kostner, William Wang, Nadarajah Kangaharan, Angus Bauman, Raibhan Yadav, Rolf Gomes	Assessment of Lipoprotein (a) levels among Australians with Recent established Atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD), the ALARA study.	Involvement	Recruitment pending
Ada Lo	John Atherton, Kristyan Guppy-Coles , Arnold Ng (PAH), William Wang (PAH), Sandhir Prasad	Evaluation of novel echocardiographic parameters in hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.		
Sandhir Prasad	John Atherton, John Younger, Kristyan Guppy-Coles Liza Thomas (Westmead), Tony Stanton (SCUH), James Anderson, Ada Lo, Joanne Sippel, Kym Smith	Left ventricular diastolic dysfunction following myocardial infarction: prevalence, predictors and prognosis.		
Sandhir Prasad	John Atherton, Paul Martin, Kristyan Guppy-Coles	Echocardiography Guided Prognosis Following Myocardial Infarction: Redefining Risk Stratification to Improve Patient Outcomes.		
Louise Cullen, William Parsonage	Jaimi Greenslade, Louise McCormack	The impact of ImpACT: A protocol to improve emergency chest pain assessment.		
John Atherton, Adam Scott	Kristyan Guppy-Coles, Cathy West, James Armstrong, Matthew Johnstone	Safety and useability of a novel robot-assisted echocardiographic examination (Single site Clinical Trial)		30 recruited 30 followed up
Louise Cullen, William Parsonage	Briffa T, Chew D, Knuiman M, Fatovich D, Hickman P, Nedkoff L, Sanfilippo F, Hillis G, Mitra B, Wilkes G, Schneider H, Rankin J, Karnon J, Scanlan S, Stapleton S, Mather V.	Is highly-sensitive troponin testing advancing clinical practice, improving outcomes and cost-effective in the investigation and management of chest pain in the Emergency Department?		
Daniel Lancini	Paul Martin, Sandhir Prasad, Louise Cullen, Jaimi Greenslade	Atrial fibrillation in the emergency chest pain presentation.		
John Atherton, Chamindie Punyadeera (QUT)	Benjamin Schulz (QUT), Goce Dimeski (QUT), Karam Kostner (Mater), Wandy Chan (TPCH), Kristyan Guppy-Coles	Salivary biomarkers in heart failure.		

Collaborative Research Activity Involving RBWH Department / Research Group

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Joseph Selvanayagam (SAHMRI) John Atherton (Site PI; International Steering Committee Member) Lydia Lilwall (S/C) Linda Hindom (S/C) Leeanne Palethorpe (S/C)	Sanjay Prasad, Andrew McGavigan, Graham Hillis, Werner Jung, Laurent Billot, Suchi Grover, John Atherton, John Younger, Paul Martin	Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance GUIDEd management of mild-moderate left ventricular systolic Heart Failure (CMR GUIDE HF).		27 recruited 22 in follow-up
John Atherton (Site-PI) Linda Hindom (Lead S/C) Lydia Lilwall (S/C) Leeanne Palethorpe (S/C)	Multi-centre clinical trial	A multicentre, randomised, double-blind, parallel-group, placebo-controlled study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of finerenone on morbidity and mortality in participants with heart failure(NYHAI-IV) and left ventricular fraction >40% (FINEARTS-HF)		10 completed follow-up
John Atherton (Site-PI) Leeanne Palethorpe (Lead S/C) Lydia Lilwall (S/C) Linda Hindom (S/C)	Multi-centre clinical trial	A Pivotal Phase 3 Randomised, Placebo-controlled Clinical Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of the sGC Stimulator Vericiguant/MK-1242 in Adults With Chronic Heart Failure With Reduced Ejection Fraction (VICTOR)		18 completed follow-up
John Atherton (Site-PI)	Database	National Echo Database Australia		
Jason Davis (Site-PI) Leeanne Palethorpe (Lead S/C) Lydia Lilwall (S/C) Linda Hindom (S/C)	Multi-centre clinical trial	BIO CONCEPT. CorSky Family: First in Human study for the CorCky ICD family		11 recruited, remain in follow-up
Christopher Hammett (Site-PI) Linda Hindom (Lead S/C) Leeanne Palethorpe (S/C) Lydia Lilwall (S/C)	Multi-centre clinical trial	A double-blind, Randomized, Placebo-controlled, Multicentre Study Assessing the impact of Olpasiran on Major Cardiovascular Events in Patients with Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease and Elevated Lipoprotein (a) (OCEAN a)		38 screened 30 recruited, continuing in follow-up
Christopher Hammett (Site-PI) Linda Hindom (Lead S/C) Leeanne Palethorpe (S/C) Lydia Lilwall (S/C)	Multi-centre clinical trial	A Phase III double-blind, randomised, parallel-group superiority trial to evaluate efficacy and safety of the combined use of oral vicadrostad (BI 690517) and empagliflozin compared with placebo and empagliflozin in participants with type 2 diabetes, arterial hypertension and established cardiovascular disease (EASi PROTKT)		Recruiting

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Christopher Hammett (Site-PI) Lydia Lilwall (Lead S/C) Linda Hindom (S/C) Leeanne Palethorpe (S/C)	Multi-centre clinical trial	A Phase 3 Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled Study to Evaluate the Impact of Maridebart Cafraglutide on Cardiovascular Outcomes in Participants with Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease and Overweight or Obesity (MARITIME-CV)		3 screened, 1 randomised, recruitment continues
Christopher Hammett (Site-PI) Lydia Lilwall (Lead S/C) Linda Hindom (S/C) Leeanne Palethorpe (S/C)	Multi-centre clinical trial	A Phase 3 study to investigate the efficacy and safety of the oral factor FXIa inhibitor asundexian (BAY 2433334) compared with apixaban in participants with atrial fibrillation at risk for stroke (OCEANIC AF)		88 recruited and completed follow-up
John Atherton (Site PI) Leeanne Palethorpe (Lead S/C) Linda Hindom (S/C) Lilwall (S/C)	Multi-centre clinical trial	HERMES: Effects Of Ziltivekimab Versus Placebo On Morbidity And Mortality In Patients With Heart Failure With Mildly Reduced Or Preserved Ejection Fraction And Systemic Inflammation		7 screened, 1 recruited, continuing in follow-up
John Atherton (Site PI) Lydia Lilwall (Lead S/C) Linda Hindom (S/C) Leeanne Palethorpe (S/C)	Multi-centre clinical trial	POSEIDON – Prevalence of systemic inflammation in patients with atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease or heart failure.		128 recruited, follow-up completed
Christopher Hammett (Site-PI) Leeanne Palethorpe (Lead S/C) Linda Hindom (S/C) Lilwall (S/C)	Multi-centre clinical trial	An interventional, randomised, parallel-group, double-blind, placebo-controlled, multi-national cardiovascular outcome trial designed to evaluate the effects of ziltivekimab15mg versus placebo added to standard of care, on CV outcomes in participants with AMI and angiographic evidence of type 1 MI. (ARTEMIS)		11 recruited, continuing in follow-up
Christopher Hammett (Site-PI) Linda Hindom (Lead S/C) Leeanne Palethorpe (S/C) Lydia Lilwall (S/C)	Multi-centre clinical trial	A Phase 3, multicentre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel group, event-driven, superiority, group sequential study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of milvexian in participants enrolled with 7 days of an ACS. (LIBREXIA ACS)		36 recruited, follow-up complete

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Christopher Hammett (Site-PI) Lydia Lilwall (Lead S/C) Linda Hindom (S/C) Leeanne Palethorpe (S/C)	Multi-centre clinical trial	A Phase 3, randomised, double-blind, double-dummy, parallel group, active-controlled study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of milvexian , an oral factor X _{II} a Inhibitor, versus apixaban in participants with atrial fibrillation (LIBREXIA AF)		28 recruited, 26 continuing in follow-up
Christopher Hammett (Site-PI) Linda Hindom (Lead S/C) Leeanne Palethorpe (S/C) Lydia Lilwall (S/C)	Multi-centre clinical trial	A Phase 3, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Study to Investigate the Effect of Lepodisiran on the Reduction of Major Adverse Cardiovascular Events in Adults with Elevated Lipoprotein(a) who have Established Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease or Are at Risk for a First Cardiovascular Event – ACCLAIM-Lp(a)		17 screened 15 recruited, continuing follow-up
John Atherton (Site-PI)	Multi-centre clinical trial	Secondary Prevention for All in Need (SPAN) after Type 1 myocardial infarction: a comparative effectiveness randomised trial		51 recruited
John Atherton (Site - PI) Leeanne Palethorpe (Lead S/C) Linda Hindom (S/C) Lydia Lilwall (S/C)	Multi-centre clinical trial	A Phase 3 Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of Maridebart Cafraglutide on Mortality and Morbidity in Participants Living With Heart Failure With Preserved or Mildly Reduced Ejection Fraction and Obesity (MARITIME HfPEF)		Recruitment continues

Research Activity with a Specific Focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Cullen L, Parsonage W, Stephensen L , Emergency Trauma Centre, Cardiology	Mahoney R, Greenslade J, Ithdayhid A, Chew D, Tyack Z, Goodman A, Cramb S, Starmer G, McKivett A, Figtree G, McCreanor V, Hillis G	Picture This: A new model of care for tackling heart attacks with First Nations Australians (The Powerful Pictures Study) MRFF 2022 Cardiovascular Health Mission	N/A – Project being conducted in N Queensland
Augustine Mugwagwa	Karam Kostner, William Wang, Nadarajah Kangaharan, Angus Bauman, Raibhan Yadav, Rolf Gomes	Assessment of Lipoprotein (a) levels among Australians with Recent established Atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD), the ALARA study.	Recruitment pending

Research Publications

Authors

Investigator	ORCID ID
John Atherton	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2271-578X
Kristyan Guppy-Coles	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2928-2983
Christopher Hammett	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0931-9486
Daniel Lancini	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2131-0628
Ada Lo	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4397-7618
Louise McCormack	https://orcid.org/0009-0004-4433-2805
Augustine Mugwagwa	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9624-5675
William Parsonage	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0223-5378
Sandhir Prasad	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8681-9425
Laura Stephensen	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9976-3846

Publications in 2025

Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Abell B, Rodwell D, Eagleson KJ, Auld B, Bora S, Kasparian NA, Justo R, **Parsonage W**, McPhail SM. Neurodevelopmental follow-up care pathways and processes for children with congenital heart disease in Australia. **Pediatr Res** 2025 Sep;98(3):966-975. doi: 10.1038/s41390-024-03722-2.

About L, Tanner H, Parsonage W, Lust K, Callaway L. Haemorrhagic and thromboembolic outcomes in pregnant patients with mechanical heart valves who undergo interruption of anticoagulation for birth - A case series. **Aust N Z J Obstet Gynaecol** 2025 Apr;65(2):269-276.

Anker SD, Ji L, Kindel T, Coats A, Ojji D, Puente Barragán A, Rossing P, Zieroth S, Ahmad S, Usman S, Appannah G, Bailey AL, Bennis A, Brandao A, Butler J, Davies MJ, Fabryova L, Guo Y-L, Itoh H, Jadhav UM, Le Roux CW, Perrone-Filardi P, Pinto FJ, Rosenstock J, Saboo B, Sabbour H, Tiwaskar M, Watson KE, Tham KW, Wyss FS, Abhayaratna WP, Abraham WT, Al Mahmeed W, Argiro A, **Atherton JJ**, Belardo D, Campuzano Ruiz R, Chatterjee N, Cornier M-A, Davies S, de Rueda Panadero C, Dzudie A, Gluckman TJ, Khan MS, Khunti K, Lopatin Y, Ma Z, Ogah OS, Oomman A, Peralta E, Li P, Poirier P, Redfern J, Rosano GMC, Saraf A, Shaheen S, Verma S, von Haehling S, Gulati M, Sattar N, Zamorano JL. iCARDIO Alliance Global Implementation Guidelines for the management of obesity. Focus on prevention and treatment of cardiometabolic disease. **Global Cardiology** 2025;3:181-206. DOI:10.4081/cardio.2025.86.

Atherton JJ, Prasad SB. First 'minimize' the harm: Factoring quality of life into the discourse on procedural myocardial infarction. **JACC Cardiovasc Interv** 2025;18:1273-5.

Atherton JJ, Sindone AP, Coats AJS. Time to rethink our approach to guidelines? International cascade guidelines for heart failure. **Heart Lung Circ** 2025;34:651-3. doi.org/10.1016/j.hlc.2025.05.093

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Keynote or Plenary Lectures given in 2025

Date	Title
May 2025	Evidence To Practice (E2P) Heart Symposium, Melbourne (invited lecture), Workshop topic: Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy: An evolving paradigm and new therapeutic option.
May 2025	Astrazeneca Cardiovascular Renal Metabolic Forum, Sydney (invited lecture). Topic: RAAS blockade in heart failure. What's new? What's next?
May 2025	Astrazeneca Cardiovascular Renal Metabolic Forum, Sydney (session chair). Digital technology in Medicine.
June 2025	United Clinical "Re-thinking Ejection Fraction in Heart Failure" national webinar (invited lecture). Topic: LVEF classification of heart failure: Clinical implications.
June 2025	Boehringer Ingelheim Cardiovascular Renal Metabolic Specialist Symposium, Melbourne (invited lecture). Topic: Could this be heart failure? What cardiologists want you to do.
June 2025	Boehringer Ingelheim Cardiovascular Renal Metabolic Specialist Symposium, Melbourne (Symposium co-chair).
July 2025	2025 APAC Heart Failure Exchange, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam (invited lecture). Topic: HFpEF made easy.
July 2025	2025 APAC Heart Failure Exchange, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam (invited lecture). Topic: Guidelines in daily practice: Case studies in chronic heart failure.
Aug 2025	73rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (Convenor).
Aug 2025	73rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (Scientific Programme Committee Chair).
Aug 2025	73rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (invited lecture). Topic: Phenotypic diversity and emerging therapeutic frontiers in HFpEF.
Aug 2025	73rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (invited lecture). Topic: Mineralocorticoid receptor antagonists – a revival?.
Aug 2025	73rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (invited lecture). Topic: When do I perform genetic testing in my patients with heart failure?.
Aug 2025	73rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (invited lecture). Topic: Diastolic Function Assessment in 2025 – Hot Topics.
Aug 2025	73rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (invited lecture). Topic: Machine Learning and Outcomes following Myocardial Infarction.
Aug 2025	73rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (invited lecture). Topic: Multimodality Imaging in Cardiac Sarcoidosis
Aug 2025	73rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (invited lecture). Topic: Echocardiography in Pregnancy
Aug 2025	73rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (invited lecture). Topic: Plaque analysis by coronary CT: Excessive or necessary?
Aug 2025	73rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (invited lecture). Topic: Optimising multimodality imaging of the aorta.
Aug 2025	73rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (session chair): Frailty and heart failure.

Aug 2025	73rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (session chair): Cardiomyopathy updates.
Aug 2025	73rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (session chair): Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy: Diagnostics and treatment.
Aug 2025	73rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (session chair): Rapid Fire Cases.
Aug 2025	Cardio Obesity Masterclass, AC Hotel, Madrid, Spain (invited lecture). Topic: Obesity and cardiac comorbidities.
Aug 2025	Cardio Obesity Masterclass, AC Hotel, Madrid, Spain (session co-chair).
Aug 2025	Update on the iCARDIO Alliance Global Implementation Guidelines. Four Seasons Hotel, Madrid Spain (invited lecture). Topic: Scaling the iCARDIO Model: Next topics, broader reach.
Aug 2025	Update on the iCARDIO Alliance Global Implementation Guidelines. Four Seasons Hotel, Madrid Spain (meeting co-chair).

Department of Clinical Pharmacology

Research highlights

The Department of Clinical Pharmacology maintains a strong and diverse research program that reflects its multidisciplinary workforce and longstanding collaborations across various Queensland Health Hospital and Health Services (including metropolitan, regional, rural and remote) and national partners. Clinical Pharmacology works closely with the Department of Pharmacy on projects focused on medication safety and the quality use of medicines. Collaborative research also continues with multiple universities, including the University of New South Wales, University of South Australia, Murdoch Children's Research Institute and Curtin University of Technology.

Across these partnerships, the department's research focuses remain centred on optimising medication use, enhancing medication safety, understanding the impact of digital health systems, utilising data linkage, and improving the quality of inpatient diabetes care. Over the reporting period, the department produced nine peer-reviewed publications, contributing new evidence to support safer and more effective medication management in Australian hospital settings.

The department's research excellence has been recognised through multiple achievements. Notably, Dr Ramali Mendis' registrar project received the award for Best Completed Project at the A3BC Annual Collaborators Meeting. Funding success has also been significant, with four competitive research grants active in 2025, totalling more than two million dollars.

In addition to research output and funding success, the Department of Clinical Pharmacology has contributed to strengthening research culture across the state. Dr Elizabeth McCourt led the organisation of the inaugural Pharmacy Research Workshop in 2025, hosted at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. This event brought together representatives from every Queensland Hospital and Health Service, as well as key professional organisations, to collaboratively develop statewide research priorities and foster closer partnerships across institutions. The workshop represents a significant milestone in elevating coordinated, multidisciplinary research efforts across Queensland Health.

These achievements highlight the department's expanding research footprint, its commitment to collaboration, and its ongoing leadership in medication safety and quality use of medicines research. The combination of high-impact publications, grant success, recognised project excellence, and statewide research leadership continues to position the Department of Clinical Pharmacology as a key contributor to advancing clinical practice and improving patient outcomes.

Research Awards and Achievements

Please list any research-related awards or achievements

Recipient (RBWH staff in bold)	Award	Event
Ramali Mendis	Outstanding Completed Project for the project 'Development and Evaluation of a measure of self-efficacy of self-management in arthritis: SMART'	A3BC Annual Collaborators Meeting, Brisbane, 7 October 2025

Research Grants

Investigator Names (RBWH staff in bold)	RBWH Departments / Research Groups	Research Project Title	Granting Body	Total Awarded (whole all years)	Length of Awards in years and years active
Associate Professor Susan Jordan (University of Queensland), Associate Professor Katrina Spilsbury (Curtin University of Technology), Dr Louise Wilson (University of Queensland), Peter Donovan (RBWH)	Clinical Pharmacology, Internal Medicine and Aged Care	Hysterectomy, Oophorectomy and Long-term chronic Disease - the HOLD study	Australian Government – National Health and Medical Research Council.	\$690,005	4yrs 2021-2025
Karen Davies	Clinical Pharmacology, Herston Infectious Disease Institute (HeIDI)	Medication Administration Evaluation and Feedback Tool (MAEFT)	MN HeIDI Research Fellowship	\$514,796	4yrs 2022-2026
Karen Davies	Clinical Pharmacology, Herston Infectious Disease Institute (HeIDI)	Implementation of the Medication Administration Evaluation and Feedback Tool (MAEFT): Knowledge Translation	QH Clinician Research Fellowship	\$199,202	3yrs 2023-2026
Kristen Michaels, Carl Kirkpatrick, Elizabeth McCourt , Chris Freeman	Clinical Pharmacology	MedIQ Network: Intelligence for Better Medicines Use	Windmere Foundation	\$810,000	3 years (2025-2029)

RBWH Department / Research Group Led Research Activity

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Karen Davies	Peter Donovan, Ian Coombes, Samantha Keogh, Jed Duff, Karen Hay, Dale Trevor	Medication Administration Evaluation and Feedback Tool (MAEFT): Knowledge Translation	Partnership	7 MN, 1 QH, 11 USA (Facilities)
Karen Davies	Peter Donovan, Ian Coombes, Samantha Keogh, Jed Duff, Karen Hay, Dale Trevor	MN Implementation of the Medication Administration Evaluation and Feedback Tool (MAEFT): Knowledge Translation	Partnership	7 (MN Facilities) 27 CKW, 23 TPCH, 85 Brighton, 229 RBWH, 34 STARS (nurses)
Peter Donovan	Jade Eccles-Smith, Abby Yu, Liza Phillips, Gurav Puri	Queensland Inpatient Diabetes Survey: Comparison of Resources and Outcomes Across Queensland	Involvement	210
Karen Davies	Peter Donovan, Ian Coombes, Samantha Keogh, Jed Duff, Karen Hay, Dale Trevor	Digital Evaluation and Implementation of the Medication Administration Evaluation and Feedback Tool (MAEFT) at STARS	Consumer-Led	34 (nurses)
Peter Donovan	Spiros Forlanos, Anthony Russell, Wah Cheung, Rebecca Munt, Diana Mackay, Emma Hamilton, Gaurav Puri, Natalie Wischer, Christopher Nolan, Glynis Ross, Mahesh Umapathysivam, Ann Corbould, Benjamin Sly	Australian National Inpatient Diabetes Audit	Involvement	
Elizabeth McCourt	Emi Maruyama, Ramali Mendis, Peter Donovan	Efficacy and safety of Obinituzumab, Ocrelizumab, and Ofatumumab in Primary Membranous Nephropathy: A systematic review	Consultation	N/A
Peter Donovan	Amanda Ji, Rafay Yousuf, Elizabeth McCourt	Systematic review of the safety and efficacy of GLP-1 analogues in managing post-bariatric hypoglycaemia	Consultation	N/A
Elizabeth McCourt	Megane Lalloo, Laetitia Hattingh, Nazanin Falconer	A scoping review of the impact of research engagement interventions in hospital pharmacy staff	Consultation	N/A
Elizabeth McCourt	Sidony Miller-Waugh, Laetitia Hattingh, Nazanin Falconer, Nadia Zamri, Sally Marotti, Jacinta Johnson	Research Capacity and Culture Survey of Queensland Health Pharmacy Staff	Consultation	N/A

Collaborative Research Activity Involving RBWH Department / Research Group

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Dr Susan Jordan (University of Queensland)	Professor Sallie-Anne Pearson (University of New South Wales), Dr Nirmala Pandeya (University of Queensland), Associate Professor Michael Coory (Murdoch Children's Research Institute), Dr Katrina Spilsbury (Curtin University of Technology), Dr Peter Donovan	IMPROVE - Investigating Medication re-Purposing to Reduce risk of OVarian cancer and Extend survival	Involvement	N/A
Benita Suckling	Champika Pattullo, Peter Donovan , Shirley Hu (University of Queensland), Bill Loveday (Medications and Regulations, Queensland Health)	Rates of Opioid Dispensing and Opioid-related Harms 2010-2018 – The Queensland Experience	Involvement	N/A
Susan Jordan (University of Queensland)	Penny Webb (QIMRB), Dr Katrina Spilsbury (Curtin University of Technology), Martha Hickey (University of Melbourne), Dr Peter Donovan	Hysterectomy, Oophorectomy and Long-term chronic Disease	Involvement	N/A
Benjamin Sly	Clair Sullivan (University of Queensland), Anthony Russell (Princess Alexandra Hospital), Sally Shrapnel (University of Queensland), Peter Donovan	Statewide Inpatient Glycaemic Benchmarking (STING)	Involvement	N/A
Benjamin Sly	Clair Sullivan (University of Queensland), Anthony Russell (Princess Alexandra Hospital), Sally Shrapnel (University of Queensland), Peter Donovan	Statewide Inpatient Glycaemic Dashboard Implementation (STING-DASH)	Involvement	N/A
Clair Sullivan	Michael Du Plessis, Elizabeth McCourt	Virtual Care in Type 1 Diabetes: An Umbrella Review	Consultation	N/A
Elizabeth McCourt	Jacinta Johnson, Libby Roughhead, Michael Barras, Nazanin Falconer, Courtney Hill, Centaine Snoswell, Ian Scott, Hana Amer, Joshua Inglis, Josephine Thomas, Lisa Kalisch, Mirela Prgomet, Sally Marotti, Sharon Goldsworthy, Sven Marxen, Tom Simpson	Evaluating a Collaborative Approach for Reducing harm and optimising Medication outcomes through partnered charting: The CARE-MED study	Partnership	N/A

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Abby Yu	Mark Laguna, Ian Coombes, Elizabeth McCourt	<i>Retrospective Audit of Anticoagulant plans in surgical patients</i>	Consultation	
James Tsakas	Champika Pattullo, Peter Donovan, Markala Stead	<i>Retrospective Audit of the Current Anaesthetics Peri-Operative of Patients Prescribed GLP1-RAs (Semaglutide)</i>	Involvement	118
Associate Professor Christine Staatz (UQ-Nic's Lead PhD Supervisor)	Nicolas Anning (PhD Student), Dr Peter Donovan, Dr George Hopkins , Dr Meng-Wong Taing, Professor Karen Whitfield, Associate Professor Alexandra Clavarino	Evaluation of a Post-Bariatric Surgery Pharmacy Service (BariSuPS)	Involvement	35
Associate Professor Christine Staatz (UQ-Nic's Lead PhD Supervisor)	Nicolas Anning (PhD Student), Dr Peter Donovan, Dr George Hopkins, Zoe Jarrott (Bariatric CNC) , Dr Meng-Wong Taing,	Analysis of Antidepressant Serum Concentration Changes in Patients Undergoing Bariatric Surgery- A Pilot Study	Involvement	3
Associate Professor Christine Staatz (UQ-Nic's Lead PhD Supervisor)	Nicolas Anning (PhD Student), Dr Peter Donovan, Dr George Hopkins , Dr Meng-Wong Taing, Dr William Olsen	Investigating Community Pharmacist understanding and Resource needs for Pharmaceutical Management After Bariatric Surgery (IPMABS)	Involvement	Nil - Awaiting approvals
Champika Pattullo	Peter Donovan , Lisa Hall, Karen Lee	Identifying the potential scalability of an Opioid Stewardship Framework to improve practice in Remote and Rural Hospitals in Queensland	Consultation	N/A
Emma Ruth-Hastie	Elizabeth McCourt, Professor Alison Mudge	A multidisciplinary retrospective audit of local performance in Internal Medicine against national Quality Use of Medicines Polypharmacy indicators	Consultation	N/A

Research Publications

Authors

Investigator	ORCID ID
Peter Donovan	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7934-601X
Karen M Davies	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3510-5227
Elizabeth McCourt	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9090-3515
Sahra Ashley	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6629-0157

Publications in 2025

Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Tuesley, K.M., Webb, P.M., Protani, M.M., **Donovan, P.** *et al.* Exploring estrogen-related mechanisms in ovarian carcinogenesis: association between bone mineral density and ovarian cancer risk in a multivariable Mendelian randomization study. *Cancer Causes Control* **36**, 171–182 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10552-024-01926-9>

Karen M Tuesley, Katrina Spilsbury, Sallie-Anne Pearson, **Peter Donovan**, Andreas Obermair, Michael D Coory, Sitwat Ali, Nirmala Pandeya, Louise Stewart, Susan J Jordan, Penelope M Webb, Long-acting, progestin-based contraceptives and risk of breast, gynecological, and other cancers, *JNCI: Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, Volume 117, Issue 5, May 2025, Pages 1046–1055, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jnci/djae282>

Yoo, J.S., Barmanray, R.D., Puri, G., Furlanos, S., Russell, A., **Donovan, P.** National survey of Australian endocrinologists on relative importance of pre-existing inpatient diabetes audit fields in preparation for a national hospital audit. *BMC Health Serv Res* **25**, 1471 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-025-13651-3>

Singleton J, **McCourt E**, Watson K, Letts A. An Exploration of the Impacts of the 2019 Floods in Townsville, Australia on Community Pharmacy Operations. *Prehospital and Disaster Medicine*. 2025;40(4):232-238. doi:10.1017/S1049023X25101301

Samadbeik, M., Staib, A., Boyle, J. Khanna, S. Bosley, E. **McCourt, E.** *et al.* "A banana in the tailpipe": a qualitative study of patient flow in the healthcare system. *BMC Health Serv Res* **25**, 745 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-025-12873-9>

Donovan, P., Sullivan, C., Sly, B., Knack, B., Engstrom, T., Jones, A., **McCourt, E.**, Lazarus, S. and Pole, J. (2025), Comparing glycaemic outcomes of digital and paper-based hospitals (GOOD study). *Intern Med J*, 55: 1508-1515. <https://doi.org/10.1111/imj.70097>

Canning, M.L., Munns, A., Twine, J. **McCourt, E** *et al.* A multi-site evaluation of clinical pharmacist time, motion, interventions and interruptions. *Int J Clin Pharm* **47**, 1261–1269 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11096-025-01910-6>

Poulsen, K.A., Burton, N.W., Mayr, H.L... **Mendis, R.**, *et al.* Resilience And Healthy Lifestyle for Rheumatoid Arthritis (The RA-HEAL trial): a randomised, parallel group, placebo-controlled clinical trial protocol. *Trials* **26**, 376 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13063-025-09063-7>

Sally M. Havers, Claire M. Rickard, Josephine Lovegrove, Andrew J. Stewardson, Diana Egerton-Warburton, Rebecca L. McCann, Gillian Ray-Barruel, Karen M. Davies, Christine Brown, Samuel M. Mathias and Jessica A. Schults. Infection prevention and control priorities to improve peripheral intravenous catheter care– setting a national priority agenda. *Infection, Disease & Health*. Available online 28 July 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.idh.2025.07.001>

Conference abstracts (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Sahra Ashley (2025) 'A Human Factors analysis of a Quaternary Hospital Dispensary' presented at Human Factors and Patient Safety Conference 2025 (27-28 March, Melbourne) [oral presentation]

Keynote or Plenary Lectures given in 2025

Date	Title
16 October	Keynote and organisation lead for 'Inaugural Queensland Pharmacy Research Workshop' – Elizabeth McCourt.

Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology

Research highlights

Inflammatory Bowel Disease

The Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH) Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Research Unit, led by Associate Professor Gareth Walker, delivers an integrated translational research program spanning population health, digital health, spatial biology, pharmacogenomics, and investigator-initiated clinical trials. The program operates across RBWH, QIMR Berghofer's Gut Health Group, and The University of Queensland Centre for Clinical Research, with active national and international collaborations.

Key 2025 achievements included a Queensland-wide data linkage study identifying significant healthcare inequities for regional patients with IBD, advancement of spatial transcriptomics to elucidate tissue-level drivers of disease and therapeutic response, and multiple randomised controlled trials in digital health and dietary interventions. The Unit's commercial trials program, led by Dr Tony Croft, was recognised as a top national recruiter for an IBD commercial study. The team presented 21 abstracts across major national and international conferences. Entering 2026, the Unit is preparing a Phase IIa trial of a novel ulcerative colitis therapy informed by spatial multi-omics.

Hepatology

The Hepatology Unit conducts impactful research to improve care and outcomes for patients with liver disease at RBWH. It oversees an active clinical trials program providing access to emerging therapies for hepatitis B, autoimmune and genetic liver diseases, and metabolic dysfunction–associated steatotic liver disease. Alongside this, the Unit manages a growing portfolio of registry-based and observational studies designed to inform clinical decision-making, refine risk stratification, and identify unmet areas in clinical service delivery.

In 2025, Dr Elizabeth Goode secured two grants to evaluate the impact of social needs on chronic liver disease and to identify predictors of outcomes in autoimmune liver disease across Queensland. The Unit continues its national contributions to hepatocellular carcinoma surveillance networks and the multicentre SOCRATES Trial. Dr Richard Skoien's biobanking cohort expanded further, supporting collaborative research. In 2025, Dr Tess Bittermann joined as Research Lead, strengthening funding pursuits, multicentre collaboration, and scientific output.

Endoscopy

The Endoscopy Research Group has a large group of interventional endoscopists with varying research interests. Most interventional research for 2025 was Investigator-led and involved mixed design research that incorporated a range of single and multicentre studies that included an exploratory study to identify novel salivary biomarkers in oesophageal cancer and Barrett's oesophagus (collaboration with Griffith university), utility of using Hanks Media supernatant for molecular analysis in tissue biopsies of pancreatic cancer (led by Monash University), small bowel cancer rates post capsule endoscopy, audit of patients that undergo insertion of an upper gastrointestinal stent for palliation, and an ongoing inpatient bowel preparation project to improve patient and clinical outcomes.

Nutrition / Neurogastroenterology

The specialist Nutrition and Neurogastroenterology services are relatively new additions to the RBWH Department of Gastroenterology, with rapidly growing research portfolios. Led by Dr Vishal Kaushik, and Dr Trina Kellar respectively, both boast multidisciplinary subspecialist teams with research interests from intestinal failure to the overlap between motility disorders and eating disorders. The Nutrition department welcomed Dr Hong Wu in 2025, whose PhD from Copenhagen University focussed on the Epidemiology of intestinal failure in IBD patients. Over the last few years our studies have looked at factors affecting incidence of central-line associated bloodstream infections, uptake of Peripheral Parenteral Nutrition and complications. The team collaborates with Oncologists researching the role of home parenteral nutrition (HPN) in terminal cancer patients (a treatment currently not available in Australia, but extensively provided in parts of Europe) and with Dietetics completed studies on oral health in HPN patients and pelvic exenteration. In 2025, Dr Kellar led a national working group to provide the first Australian guidance document on the assessment and management of idiopathic gastroparesis, and with Dr Kaushik as part of a national steering committee, co-authored the GESA Guidelines on Management of Patients with Disorders of Gut-Brain Interaction and Altered (Reduced) Food Intake Behaviour. Upcoming research projects will explore the pathophysiology and novel treatment options in severe chronic nausea and vomiting syndromes, assess the benefit of an assessment model of care, including consultation-liaison psychiatry in neurogastroenterology, and novel interdisciplinary treatment approaches to long-term artificial nutrition support in conjunction with the Queensland Eating Disorders Service. Dr Kaushik is currently involved in National Disaccharidases Working Party, with Biochemical Pathologists researching the nationwide inconsistencies in Disaccharidase testing with endoscopic sampling and lab processing. Dr Hong is an active participant in national guideline development for AUSPEN in intestinal failure management, including the use of GLP-2 agents.

Research Awards and Achievements

Recipient (RBWH staff in bold)	Award	Event
Hong Wu	True North Award	XIX Congress of the International Intestinal Rehabilitation and Transplantation Association (CIIRTA), Gothenburg, Sweden.

Research Grants

Investigator Names (RBWH staff in bold)	RBWH Departments / Research Groups	Research Project Title	Granting Body	Total Awarded (whole all years)	Length of Awards in years and years active
Elizabeth Goode , Patricia Valery (QIMR), Therese Bitterman , Elizabeth Powell (QIMR), Danielle Gallegos (QUT)	Gastroenterology	Quantifying the impact of socioeconomic deprivation and food insecurity in patients with chronic liver disease: a pilot study	QIMRB Seed Grant	\$30,000	1yr, 2025-2026
Elizabeth Goode	Gastroenterology	Population-based study of outcomes in Queenslanders living with immune-mediated liver disease	RBWH SWIFT grant	\$25,000	1yr, 2025-2026
Shweta Sharma	Gastroenterology	Yield of neoplastic lesions in a prospective Australian cohort undergoing colonoscopic surveillance in the context of high-quality colonoscopy	UQ Scholarship (MPhil)	\$200,000 + stipend	4yrs; 2023-2027
Gareth Walker , George Tampakis	Gastroenterology, IBD research group	Remote digital monitoring of IBD in regional Queensland (RCT)	Queensland Health, Takeda Pharmaceuticals	\$100,000; \$50,000	2 yrs, 2024-2026
Gareth Walker	Gastroenterology, IBD research group	Deployment of POC benchside faecal calprotectin testing in RBWH IBD Flare Clinic	RBWH Foundation – patient care	\$15,000	1 year, 2026
Gareth Walker , Alex Burke	Gastroenterology, IBD research group	Anti-inflammatory diet augmentation of 5-ASA therapy (RCT)	RBWH Foundation - SERTA	\$50,000	1 year, 2026
Graham Radford-Smith , Gareth Walker , Jennifer Phillips , Quan Nguyen (QIMR)	Gastroenterology, IBD research group	Spatial transcriptomics of IBD pathogenesis and drug response	RBWH Foundation - SERTA	\$50,000	1 year, 2026

RBWH Department / Research Group Led Research Activity

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Jason Huang	Bronte Holt, Jacinta Holmes, Alex Thompson, Sarah Romero, Krish Ragunath	National endoscopic ultrasound portal pressure gradient registry	Involvement	12
Florian Grimpen	David Mitchell , Mark Appleyard , Chamindie Punyadeera (Griffith Uni)	Biomarkers of Barrett's Oesophagus and neoplastic progression: Finding the proteomic spitting image	Involvement	13

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Chun Gan	Anna McMahon	The Familial Gastrointestinal Cancer database	Involvement	45
Anna McMahon	Kim Ryan, Katherine Hanigan, Mark Appleyard, Florian Grimpen	Inpatient colonoscopy bowel preparation, a clinical redesign project	Involvement	339/397
Gareth Walker	George Tambakis, Graham Radford-Smith, Tony Croft	Remote and regional IBD digital monitoring	Involvement	60
Richard Skoien	Grant Ramm, Barbara Leggett, Olivia Cullen, Georgina Peacock	Establishment of a clinical and scientific hepatology database to study factors associated with chronic liver disease	Involvement	625
Olivia Cullen, Alison Kearney	Richard Skoien, Ismail Arbi, Katherine Hannigan	A multidisciplinary model of palliative and supportive care that addresses patient needs in advanced cirrhosis: The HepatoCare Database	Involvement	50
Professor Barbara Leggett	Shweta Sharma, Patricia C Valery, Katherine Hanigan, Kimberley Ryan, Mark Appleyard, Nicholas Tutticci, Timothy O'Sullivan	Surveillance outcomes in an Australian cohort undergoing piecemeal polypectomy for conventional adenomas and serrated lesions	Consultation	0
Professor Barbara Leggett	Shweta Sharma, Patricia C Valery, Katherine Hanigan, Kimberley Ryan, Mark Appleyard	Yield of neoplastic lesions in a prospective Australian cohort undergoing colonoscopic surveillance in the context of high-quality colonoscopy	Consultation	0
Gareth Walker, Graham Radford-Smith, Patricia Valery, Gunter Hartell	George Tambakis, Tony Croft, Satomi Okano (QIMR)	Linkage study exploring IBD healthcare inequity in regional Queensland	Consultation	0
Gareth Walker, Graham Radford-Smith and Quan Nguyen (QIMR)	Jennifer Phillips, Ian Brown, Christophe Rosty, Amanda Oliver	Spatial transcriptomics in IBD pathogenesis and drug response	Consultation	15
Gareth Walker	Graham Radford-Smith, Jennifer Phillips, Alex Burke, Tony Croft, Abi Marsh, Georgina Hold, Mark Hodson	Anti-inflammatory diet RCT in UC	Involvement	0
Mark Appleyard	Shweta Sharma, Anna McMahon, Kim Ryan, Katherine Hanigan, Florian Grimpen	Small bowel findings and long-term clinical outcomes for patients with Peutz-Jeghers syndrome undergoing surveillance with video capsule endoscopy	Consultation	9/47
Marnie Wood	Richard Skoien, Olivia Cullen, Katherine Hanigan	An audit of the management of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) at the RBWH		50
Barbara Leggett	Melanie Halford, Olivia Cullen, Katherine Hannigan, Marnie Wood, Enoka Gonsalkorala, Richard Skoien, Bohdeen Gerritse	Hepatoma and Compensated Cirrhosis Follow Up Clinic (HACCFOL)		996
Enoka Gonsalkorala		Hepatology Outpatients Characteristics Database	Involvement	684

Collaborative Research Activity Involving RBWH Department / Research Group

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Dan Croagh, Owen McKay (Monash Health)	Benedict Devereaux	Endoscopic Ultrasound Molecular Evaluation of Pancreatic Cancer Trial 2	Involvement	21
Simone Strasser (RPA, Sydney)	Marnie Wood	Outcomes of Atezolizumab plus Bevacizumab for HCC	Involvement	20
Amanda Nicoll (Eastern Health, Victoria)	Richard Skoien	The Australian Drug-Induced Liver Injury Network (AusDILIN)	Involvement	31
John Zalcborg (Monash)	Marnie Wood	Upper Gastrointestinal Cancer Registry (UGICR)	Involvement	18
James O'Beirne (SCUH)	Patricia Valery, Elizabeth Powell, Associate Professor Louisa Gordon, Richard Skoien	A mixed-methods study to inform health service planning for patients with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease in regional areas in Queensland	Involvement	51
Dr John Bate (Royal Adelaide Hospital)	Richard Skoien	Maestro: A Phase 3, Multinational, Double-Blind, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled Study of MGL-3196 (resmetirom) in Patients with Non-Alcoholic Steatohepatitis (NASH) and Fibrosis to Resolve NASH and reduce Progression to Cirrhosis and/or Hepatic Decompensation	Involvement	4
Prof Alice Lee (Concord Hospital)	Richard Skoien	Nativ3: A Randomised, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Multicentre, Phase 3 Study Evaluating Efficacy And Safety Of Lanifibranor Followed by An Active Treatment Extension In Adult Patients With Non-Cirrhotic Non-Alcoholic Steatohepatitis (Nash) And Fibrosis 2 (F2)/Fibrosis 3 (F3) Stage Of Liver Fibrosis	Involvement	4
Associate Professor Jacinta Holmes (St Vincent's Hospital)	Richard Skoien	B Well: Phase 3 Study of Bepirovirsen in Nucleos(t)ide Analogue-treated Participants with Chronic Hepatitis B (B-Well 2)	Involvement	6
Richard Skoien		A prospective, multi-centre study (B-Sure) to evaluate long-term durability of treatment response in chronic hepatitis B participants with and without nucleos(t)ide therapy who have participated in a previous bepirovirsen treatment study.	Involvement	1
Associate Professor Stephen Pianko (Monash Health)	Richard Skoien	Akero: A Phase 3, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Study Evaluating the Safety and Efficacy of Efruxifermin in Subjects with Compensated Cirrhosis Due to Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis (NASH)/Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatohepatitis (MASH)	Involvement	1 (recruiting)
Dr Michael Braude (Monash Health)	Richard Skoien	Enlighten Cirrhosis: A Phase 3 Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of Pegzofermin in Subjects with Compensated Cirrhosis due to Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatohepatitis (MASH)	Involvement	1 (recruiting)

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Dr Michael Braude (Monash Health)	Richard Skoien	Enlighten Fibrosis: A Phase 3 Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of Pegzofermin in Subjects with Compensated Cirrhosis due to Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatohepatitis (MASH) and Fibrosis	Involvement	2 (recruiting)
Dr Sood (Royal Melbourne Hospital)	Richard Skoien	ASSURE: An Open Label Long-Term Study to Evaluate the Safety and Tolerability of Seladelpar in Subjects with Primary Biliary Cholangitis	Involvement	3
Alan Wigg (Flinders University)	Marnie Wood	A randomised controlled trial of Standard of Care versus RadioAblation in Early-Stage HCC	Involvement	6
Georgina Hold (UNSW),	Gareth Walker, Jennifer Phillips, Graham Radford Smith	Australian IBD Microbiome Study (AIM)	Involvement	9
Greg Moore (Monash Medical Centre), Anthony Croft	Gareth Walker, George Tambakis, Jennifer Phillips	“ATLAS-UC” A Phase 3, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Program to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of MK-7240 in Participants with Moderately to Severely Active Ulcerative Colitis	Involvement	7
Greg Moore (Monash Medical Centre), Anthony Croft	Gareth Walker, George Tambakis, Jennifer Phillips	“ARES-CD” A Phase 3, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Program to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of Tulisokibart in Participants with Moderately to Severely Active Crohn’s Disease	Involvement	4
Jacob Begun, Anthony Croft	Gareth Walker, George Tambakis, Jennifer Phillips	“SIBERITE” A Phase 3 Multicenter, Double-blind, Placebo Controlled Treat through Study To Assess the Efficacy and Safety of Induction and Maintenance Therapy with RO7790121 in Patients with Moderately to Severely Active Crohn’s Disease	Involvement	0
Professor Rupert Leong (Concord Hospital), Anthony Croft	Anthony Croft, George Tambakis	“VIVID-2” A Phase 3, Multicenter, Open-Label, Long-Term Extension Study to Evaluate the Long-Term Efficacy and Safety of Mirikizumab in Patients with Crohn’s Disease	Involvement	0 (3 ongoing)
Associate Professor Jacob Begun (Mater Brisbane), Anthony Croft	George Tambakis, Gareth Walker, Emi Khoo	“STOPit” Study of Tofacitinib for the Treatment of Chronic Pouchitis	Involvement	2 (6 completed; recruitment closed)
Associate Professor Susie Connor (SWSLHD – South Western Sydney Local Health District),	Graham Radford-Smith, Gareth Walker	“PROACTIVE” Prospective Randomised Controlled Trial of Adult Patients with Perianal Crohn’s Disease and Optimised Therapeutic Infliximab Levels	Involvement	1 (3 completed, recruitment ongoing)
Lisa Lo (RPA / Sydney Local Health District)	Graham Radford-Smith	“LEGACY” A Long-Term Non-Interventional Registry to Assess Safety and Effectiveness of HUMIRA® (Adalimumab) in Patients with Moderately to Severely Active Ulcerative Colitis (UC)	Involvement	0 (1 active – recruitment closed)

Research Activity with a Specific Focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Gareth Walker, Graham Radford-Smith , Patricia Valery, Gunter Hartell	George Tambakis, Tony Croft , Satomi Okano	Linkage study exploring IBD healthcare inequity in regional Queensland	NA

Research Publications

Authors

Investigator	ORCID ID
Mark Appleyard	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2714-8657
Florian Grimpen	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0375-8381
Kim Ryan	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8188-9977
Benedict Devereaux	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1795-5690
Sanjivan Mudaliar	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9505-1924
Anthony Croft	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0866-9521
Marnie Wood	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3740-9443
Rajit Gilhotra	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8055-6524
Gareth Walker	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3883-8816
Richard Skoien	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3411-9267
Graham Radford-Smith	https://orcid.org/0000-00002-2047-6239
Barbara Leggett	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2062-7380

Publications in 2025

Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

- Zhang L, Grimpen F.** Renoduodenal fistula caused by a large staghorn calculus revealed on endoscopy. *iGIE* 2025, 4 (2): 149-150, doi:10.1016/j.igie.2025.02.002
- Hoey P, Goetz N, Ryan K, Appleyard M, Grimpen F.** Post Capsule endoscopy small bowel cancer rate – An Australian data linkage analysis. *Journal of Gastrointestinal Cancer*. 2025, 56:190, doi:10.1007/s12029-025-01313-w
- Goetz N, Ryan K, Hanigan K, Jones L, Remedios M, Grimpen F.** Short-term impact of radiofrequency ablation on esophageal functional quality of life in patients with Barrett's neoplasia. *Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology*. 2025, 40 (5): 1212-1220/ doi:10.1111/jgh.16917
- Munday J, **McKenna L, Johns S, Ryan K**, Douglas C. Heat loss during procedural sedation for endoscopy: A descriptive study. *Journal of PeriAnesthesia Nursing*. 2025, 40 (5): 1290-1294.e1, doi:10.1016/j.jopan.2025.01.024
- Etchegaray A, Mudaliar S, Ryan K, Hay K, Hwang J, Devereaux B, Appleyard M, Grimpen F.** Safety, efficacy and post-endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography survival in nonagenarians: a retrospective cohort study. *Internal Medicine Journal*. 2025 Mar; 55(3): 435-443, doi:10.1111/imj.16652
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Keynote or Plenary Lectures given in 2025

Date	Title
Gareth Walker Sept 2025	Global Symposium on Clostridioides difficile (Ferring Pharmaceuticals)- Virtual
Reuben Malloy Sept 19-22, 2025	IFV Point-of-Care testing in ASUC Australian Gastroenterology Week, AGW 2025, Melbourne
Naeman Goetz Sept 19-22, 2025	Unmasking the faces of severe colitis: A data-driven approach to defining UC Phenotypes Australian Gastroenterology Week, AGW 2025, Melbourne
Hong Wu Sept 2025	Development and validation of the Crohn's disease–intestinal failure–wean score to predict outcomes of intestinal rehabilitation Congress of the International Intestinal Rehabilitation and Transplantation Association (CIIRTA), Gothenburg, Sweden
Trina Kellar	Functional gut disorders and abdominal pain Faculty of pain medicine symposium & ANZCA annual scientific meeting, Cairns
Trina Kellar 28-30 August 2025	Treating the Whole Person: Eating disorders across life stages and health contexts Australia & New Zealand Academy for Eating Disorders (ANZAED), Melbourne
Rajit Gilhotra March	Endohepatology – Can it deLiver to its potential. EUS Australia, Canberra
Rajit Gilhotra June	Advances in endoscopic management of varices. GI Whistler Summit: Advanced and Innovations, Whistler, British Columbia, Canada
Rajit Gilhotra October	Endohepatology. Portal Hypertension and Beyond: Endoscopists in the Hepatology Space Australian Capital Endoscopy Symposium (ACES) October 2025

Inflammatory Bowel Disease Research Team



Hepatology team



Department of Infectious Diseases

Research highlights

Associate Professor Krispin Hajkowitz, Infectious Diseases Senior Staff Specialist, and colleagues discovered a new viral cause of infection resulting in encephalitis (Trubanaman virus) previously detected in mosquito populations (Hajkowitz K, Woodford J, Pillai E, et al. Metatranscriptomic identification of Trubanaman virus sequences in patient with encephalitis. Australia. *Emerging Infectious Diseases* 2025;31(12):2332-2335. doi.org/10.3201/eid3112.251190).

Dr Angus Lane, Infectious Diseases Advanced Trainee:

- Completed Advanced Training Research Project: *Invasive Fungal Infections in Heart Transplants: A ten-year, single centre retrospective cohort study from subtropical Australia*. This is the first Australian cohort study (conducted at The Prince Charles Hospital) that focused solely on invasive fungal infections in patients with heart transplants.
 - Awarded the RACP Trainee Research Award 2025 Adult Medicine – Queensland for the Advanced Trainee Research Project
 - Invited to present at the RACP Trainee Research Awards Symposium in Sydney (July 2026).
- Completed The NOOn-Tuberculous mycObacteRIum spp. bone, joint and soft tissue infection OUtcomeS (The NOTORIOUS study). This multicentre retrospective review was completed with Infectious Diseases Physicians Dr Sumudu (Sumi) Britton and Dr Adam Stewart in conjunction with several other hospitals across Queensland and New Zealand. Preliminary findings were presented at the Australian Nontuberculosis Mycobacteria (NTM) Symposium 2025 with expected publication in 2026.
- Ethics approval obtained and data collection commenced for: *The Efficacy of Cefazolin and Ertapenem Synergism as Salvage Therapy for Persistent MSSA Bacteraemia: A ten-year multicentre retrospective review*.
- Approval received from Internal Medicine and Aged Care Executive leadership team to proceed with: *Mapping the Registrar Experience: A Mixed-Methods Evaluation of Training, Supervision, and Wellbeing at The Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital*.
- Contributed to the development of Australia's first guideline for therapeutic drug monitoring in tuberculosis with expected publication in 2026.

Successful Research Higher Degree (e.g. MPhil or PhD) candidates in 2025

Name	Degree (e.g. MPhil or PhD)	Title	Month Completed	Affiliated University	Summary
Dr Sarah Hickson	PhD	Pseudomonas aeruginosa Pathogenesis Mechanisms in Bacteraemia and Infective Endocarditis	Dec 2024	University of Queensland	Pseudomonas aeruginosa is an opportunistic pathogen capable of causing a wide range of infections, facilitated by extensive virulence mechanisms that enable survival, persistence, and pathogenicity across diverse environments. These infections are often associated with high mortality and pose significant therapeutic challenges due to the prevalence of multidrug resistance among clinical strains. This thesis characterises clinical P. aeruginosa isolates from bacteraemia and infective endocarditis to elucidate key factors contributing to pathogenesis in these infections. The overarching aim is to identify critical disease-causing mechanisms that may serve as targets for antimicrobial interventions, thereby suggesting strategies to prevent and manage P. aeruginosa infections.

Research Awards and Achievements

Recipient (RBWH staff in bold)	Award	Event
Angus Lane	RACP Trainee Research Award 2025 Adult Medicine - Queensland	RACP Qld. Invited to present at RACP Trainee Research Awards Symposium in Sydney July 31 st 2026 (cost covered by RACP). Awarded for my Advanced training research project. 'Invasive Fungal Infections in Heart Transplants: A ten-year, single centre retrospective cohort study from subtropical Australia'. (Completed at TPCH)

Research Grants

Investigator Names (RBWH staff in bold)	RBWH Departments / Research Groups	Research Project Title	Granting Body	Total Awarded (whole all years)	Length of Awards in years and years active
Jonathon Carapetis, Asha Bowen, Paul Memmott, Nina Lansbury, Anna Ralph, Mark Davies, Andrew Redmond et al	Infectious Diseases	STARFISH (ST opping A cute R heumatic F ever Infections to S trengthen H ealth)	NHMRC	\$5 000 000	5y, 2022-2026

RBWH Department / Research Group Led Research Activity

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Angus Lane	Robert Horvath, Andrew Redmond , Paul Chapman , Sivasaaini Sivakumaran , Heather Dolby, Daniel Wise , Visai Muruganandah, Sanjana Heraganandah, Nihal-Indir Lalwani, Stuart Winlaw, Matthew Eustace, Alex Chaudhuri, Kanthi Vemuri, Andrew Burke, John McNamara	Our study evaluates the clinical efficacy of cefazolin–ertapenem combination therapy as salvage treatment for persistent MSSA bacteraemia across two tertiary centres over a ten-year period.	Not applicable	
Kate McCarthy	Angela White , Anoopa Matthews	Patient solutions to the “problems” encountered in Hospital Isolation	Involvement	3
Kate McCarthy	Sally Havers , Gregory Merlo , Alison Pickering	Cost effective analysis of decolonisation of mMRSA inpatients post discharge	Consultation	Retrospective analysis - 38

Collaborative Research Activity Involving RBWH Department / Research Group

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Steven Tong	Bridget Barber , Matthew Eustace , Krispin Hajkowicz , Mark Fahmy , Andrew Redmond	SNAP trial – Staphylococcus aureus Network adaptive platform	Involvement	80
Jessica Schultz	Alison Smith, Sally Havers , Janice Geary, Judith Jones, Debra Vasey, Paul Simpson, Alison Pickering , Kate McCarthy , Lisa Hall, Claire Rickard	Bloodstream infection under review: Codesigning a standardised approach to bloodstream infection in Queensland Health	Involvement	8

Research Activity with a Specific Focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Jonathon Carapetis	Asha Bowen, Paul Memmott, Nina Lansbury, Anna Ralph, Andrew Redmond et al	STARFISH (ST opping A cute R heumatic F ever I nfections to S trengthen H ealth)	Nil

Research Publications

Authors

Investigator	ORCID ID
Krispin Hajkowicz	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6990-0486
Kate McCarthy	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6173-9659
Andrew Redmond	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1125-5362
Bridget Barber	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1066-7960
Sumudu Britton	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6465-3754
Alex Stewart	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3266-3250

Publications in 2025

Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Eustace MB, Braddick M, Alcorn K, Choong K, Satyaputra F, Siebert D, Smith S, Sommerville R, **McCarthy K**. Microbiological basis of central skull base osteomyelitis in Queensland, Australia, 2010–2020. Pathology, 2025-02-01, Volume 57, Pages S92-S93.

Mohammed SA, Roberts JA, Mirón-Rubio M, López Cortés LE, Assefa GM, Pollard J, **McCarthy K**, Gilchrist M, **Cotta M**, **Sime FB**. Quantifying cost savings from outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy programme: a systematic review and meta-analysis. JAC Antimicrob Resist. 2025 Apr 8;7(2):dlaf049. doi: 10.1093/jacamr/dlaf049. PMID: 40201538; PMCID: PMC11976721.

Keynote or Plenary Lectures given in 2025

Date	Title
18/11/2025	Measles in Healthcare, Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control Conference

Department of Neurology

Research highlights

The RBWH Neurology department continues to host several highly productive researchers in several subspecialty areas.

The Epilepsy group has continued to be active in 2025. During the year it participated in 13 commercially sponsored drug trials of novel antiseizure medication, 1 NHMRC funded clinical trial of a novel agent for modification of epilepsy, and 1 MRFF clinical trial relating to the management of patients after the first unprovoked seizure. The team has continued to work diligently to provide patients with refractory epilepsy with an opportunity to access emerging therapies that are unavailable outside the research sphere. In 2025, group members supervised / co-supervised 10 PhD students and 1 post-doctoral fellow. Three PhD theses were conferred in 2024. Work from the Epilepsy group was presented at the Epilepsy Society of Australia Annual Scientific Meeting. Professor David Reutens was named a Stanford / Elsevier Top 2% Scientist in 2025, falling in the top 2% of the most cited scientists across the globe.

The Stroke group has worked across commercially funded trials (e.g. LIBREXIA-Stroke), government funded grants looking at an AI-powered tool for acute stroke and clinician-driven research. A highlight has been RBWH's role as lead site for a first-in-class trial for cerebral amyloid angiopathy, a condition with no prior therapeutic options.

The Neuromuscular group has welcomed Dr Eshan Shandiz, a consultant neurologist and PhD student, working on objective biomarkers that can complement routine bedside assessment focusing on neurophysiological biomarkers for motor neuron disease. Dr Shandiz's work encompasses High Density Surface Electromyography (HD-sEMG) in motor neuron disease (MND/ALS), characterising distinctly differing phenotypes of MND/ALS based on unique HD-sEMG patterns. His work will allow those differences to be incorporated into future clinical trials and clinical work

As always, we are grateful to our research collaborators including the Intensive Care Unit, Genetic Health Queensland, Cardiology, Pharmacy, Neurosurgery and the Department of Medical Imaging.

Successful Research Higher Degree (e.g. MPhil or PhD) candidates in 2025

Name	Degree (e.g. MPhil or PhD)	Title	Month Completed	Affiliated University	Summary
Dr Sue Lawrence	PhD	Posterior lumbar anatomy as it applies to translaminar neuraxial anaesthetic practice	December 2025	University of Queensland	This work examined the anatomy of the lumbar region using MRI and cadaver dissection. It informs practice in lumbar spinal and epidural anaesthesia
Dr Elaine Kuan	PhD	Language mapping using machine learning and deep learning methods with naturalistic fMRI	December 2025	University of Queensland	This work examined methods of mapping language function in the brain using AI and a movie stimulus.
Dr Adrian Almass	PhD	Development of PET imaging probes targeting mTOR in Focal Cortical Dysplasia-II	March 2025	University of Queensland	This work dealt with the development and validation of a novel radioligand for detection of focal cortical dysplasia, a cause of focal epilepsy

Research Grants

Investigator Names (RBWH staff in bold)	RBWH Departments / Research Groups	Research Project Title	Granting Body	Total Awarded (whole all years)	Length of Awards in years and years active
DC Reutens , F Nasrallah, B Ziegelaar, M Appleby, M Chen	Epilepsy	Danger signalling, traumatic brain injury and epileptogenesis	United States Department of Defence Congressional Directed Medical Research Programs	995,024	4 years 2021-2025
L Vivash, T O'Brien, L Churilov, P Perucca, M Cook, D Reutens , C Malpas, P Kwan	Epilepsy	Phase 2, double-blind, placebo controlled trial of sodium selenate as a disease modifying treatment for chronic drug resistant temporal lobe epilepsy (SELECT Trial)	NHMRC Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies, 2022	2.961,326	5 years 2023-2028

Investigator Names (RBWH staff in bold)	RBWH Departments / Research Groups	Research Project Title	Granting Body	Total Awarded (whole all years)	Length of Awards in years and years active
DC Reutens , S Chandra, J Bertram, N Kurniawan, H Healy	Epilepsy	Advancing the visualisation and quantification of nephrons with MRI	Australian Research Council	\$485, 575	4 years, 2022-2025
DC Reutens and 12 other PIs	Epilepsy	Research Hub for Advanced Manufacture of Targeted Radiopharmaceuticals	Australian Research Council	\$4,808,669	5 years, 2023-2027
Lata Vadlamudi	Epilepsy	Women with epilepsy- a life course approach to improving clinical care	Queensland Health	\$5125,000	2yrs, 6/2024-6/2026
Frank Vadja Terence O'Brien Piero Perucca Lata Vadlamudi Cecilie Lander UCB team	Epilepsy	A multicenter, open-label, longitudinal, prospective, pharmacokinetic phase 1b study in pregnant women with epilepsy treated with lacosamide	UCB collaborative research grant	\$403,887	3 years Dec 2022- July 2026
Ernst Wolvetang Christpher Reid Ingrid Scheffer Lata Vadlamudi Nathan Palpant Terence O'Brien Patrick Kwan Glenn King	Epilepsy	Spider venom peptides: precision therapy for genetic epilepsies	MRFF- Stem cell therapies Mission	\$4,169,463	4 years 6/2024-6/2028
Jayesh Dhanani, Lata Vadlamudi Jason Roberts, Menino Os Cotta, Steven Wallis	Neurology/ICU	A prospective observational comparative plasma and cerebrospinal fluid pharmacokinetics of levetiracetam in aneurysmal subarachnoid haemorrhage and traumatic brain injury (The ALLEVIATE STUDY)	SERTA, RBWH Foundation Grant	\$63,048	1/2023-12/2025
Lata Vadlamudi	Neurology/GHQ	Developing a Queensland neuro-genomics service to underpin the era of precision-based medicine	MN clinician research fellowship	\$742,793	02/2021 – 2/2025
Dr Ehsan Shandiz	Neurology	Tracking motor unit firing changes in motor neuron disorders; developing novel biomarkers using non-invasive electromyography	2026 RBWH research higher degree scholarship	\$120,000	3 yrs, 2026-2028

Investigator Names (RBWH staff in bold)	RBWH Departments / Research Groups	Research Project Title	Granting Body	Total Awarded (whole all years)	Length of Awards in years and years active
Qing Yang, Katie Quin Gilbert, Andrew Wong , Zongyuan Ge, Mick Pearce	Neurology	AI-powered clinical decision assistance for acute stroke	Cooperative Research Centres Projects (CRC-P) Grants	\$2,968,535	2023 - 2026

RBWH Department / Research Group Led Research Activity

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Lata Vadlamudi	Cecilie Lander David Reutens Alice-Ann Sullivan Xiaohua Chen Stephen Walsh John Phamnguyen Dan Truong Chris Randall Christina Jang Leanne Mitchell	Improving Outcomes for Women with Epilepsy: Perimenopause and Beyond (WELL study)	3	38
D.C. Reutens	Thompson, K. , Haslam, C., Ownsworth, T., Pegna, A., & Reutens, D.C.	Memory symptoms in people with epilepsy.	Involvement	290
Andrew Wong	Claire Muller , Alaa Alghamry, Kathryn Colebourne, Dominic Chan, Iain Borthwick, Vivian Kwok	AI-powered clinical decision assistance for acute stroke	Involvement	148

Collaborative Research Activity Involving RBWH Department / Research Group

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Professor Patrick Kwan	Professor David Reutens, Dr Alice-Ann Sullivan, Ass Professor Lata Vadlamudi	Identifying genetic and molecular biomarkers of epilepsy and response to treatment	Partnership	51
Professor Patrick Kwan	Professor David Reutens, Dr Alice-Ann Sullivan, Ass Professor Lata Vadlamudi	PERSONAL: Personalised Selection of Medication for Newly Diagnosed Adult Epilepsy	Partnership	1
Jayesh Dhanani	Lata Vadlamudi Fred Tremayne Jason Roberts Menino Os Cotta Steven Wallis	A prospective observational comparative plasma and cerebrospinal fluid pharmacokinetics of levetiracetam in aneurysmal subarachnoid haemorrhage and traumatic brain injury (The ALLEVIATE STUDY)	Involvement	Total number 27 2025- 2 with EEG, 9 without EEG

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Associate Professor Andrew Wong	Dr Claire Muller, Dr Michael Roizman	A Phase 3, Randomized, Double-Blind, Parallel-Group, Placebo-Controlled Study to Demonstrate the Efficacy and Safety of Milvexian, an Oral Factor Xla Inhibitor, for Stroke Prevention after an Acute Ischemic Stroke or High-Risk Transient Ischemic Attack	Involvement	10
Dr Claire Muller	Associate Professor Andrew Wong	A Phase 2, Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled Study to Evaluate the Efficacy, Safety, Tolerability, and Pharmacodynamics of Intrathecally Administered ALN-APP in Patients with Cerebral Amyloid Angiopathy (CAA)	Involvement	2

Research Publications

Authors

Investigator	ORCID ID
Michael O'Sullivan	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2869-4580
Lata Vadlamudi	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8742-0125
Cecilie Lander	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3548-9550
John Thienan Phamnguyen	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9532-7003
David Reutens	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1652-9369
Kate Thompson	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2269-1215
Ehsan Shandiz	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1326-792X
Andrew Wong	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7272-8944

Publications in 2025

Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Phamnguyen, J, Tremayne, F., Vadlamudi, L., Lander, C., Walsh, S., Chen, X., Sullivan, A-A., Vegh, V., Reutens, D. Progressive Clonic Slowing Predicts Severity of Respiratory Dysfunction and Prolonged Postictal Immobility in Tonic-Clonic Seizures. *Epilepsia Open*, 10.1002/epi4.70161. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1002/epi4.70161>

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Voinescu, P.E., Smith, K.M., Latt, T., Alkaldi, M., Puntambekar, P., Zarroli, K., Pegg, E., becker, B., Sheth, A.S., Conner, K. R., Ortiz-Guerrero, G., Snehal, I., Blank, L., Bromley, R., Cavitt, J., Krishnaienger, S.R., Mihaylova, T., Moore-Hill, D., Norton, A., Bui, E., **Vadlamudi, L.** The intersection of menopause and epilepsy: A review of current knowledge and gaps. *EMJ Neurol*. 2025;13(1):102-113 <https://doi.org/10.33590/emjneuro/JPEB4231>

Thom, D., Chang, R.S., Lannin, N.A., Ademi, Z. Ge, Z., **Reutens, D.**, O'Brien, T.J., D'Souza, W., Perucca, P., Reeder, S., Nikpour, **A., Wong, C.**, Kiley, M., Saw, J., Nicolo, J., Seneviratne, U., Carney, P., Jones, D., Somerville, E., Stapleton, C., Foster, E., **Vadlamudi, L.**, Vaughan, D., Lee, J., Farrar, T., Howard, M., Sparrow, R., Chen, Z., Kwan, P. Personalised Selection of Medication for Newly Diagnosed Adult Epilepsy: study protocol of a first-in-class, double-blind, randomised controlled trial. *BMJ Open*. 2025 Apr5;15(4):e086607 doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2024-086607. <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/15/4/e086607>

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Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Vajda F, O'Brien T, Graham J, Hitchcock A, Perucca P, **Lander C**, Eadie M. Assisted reproduction and the fetal malformation risk associated with antiseizure medication exposure in pregnancy. *Epilepsia*. 2025 Jun;66(6):1899-1906. doi: 10.1111/epi.18335. Epub 2025 Feb 28. PMID: 40019358

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Gillinder, L., Craig, D., Powell, T., **Walsh, S., Phamnguyen, J.**, Wilson, I., Chen, X., Gillis, D., & **McCombe, P.** (2025). Investigating the frequency of neural autoantibodies in refractory focal epilepsy. *Seizure*, 125, 73–78. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.seizure.2025.01.007>

Mahizhnan, M., Dufau, S., Phamnguyen, J., Kahrom, A., Craig, D., & McGonigal, A. (2026). Semiology in spontaneous versus cortical stimulation-induced seizures during SEEG: A within-patient comparison study. *Epilepsia open*, 10.1002/epi4.70221. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1002/epi4.70221>

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Campbell B, Kasner S ... **Wong A** et al. Safety and tolerability of Rinvecalinase Alfa (DM199) for acute ischemic stroke (ReMEDy1). *International Journal of Stroke*. 2025 (online) <https://doi.org/10.1177/17474930251396480>

Hayward K, Donnan G ... **Wong A** et al. Integrated UPper limb and Language Impairment and Functional Training (UPLIFT) after stroke: study protocol for an umbrella Bayesian Optimal Phase IIa clinical trial. *BMJ Neurology Open* 2025 7(2): e001212 DOI [10.1136/bmjno-2025-001212](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjno-2025-001212)

Cadilhac D, Morrison J ... **Wong A** et al. The national clinical quality stroke registry program to support improvements in acute stroke care: progress update. *Cerebrovascular Diseases* 2025 54 suppl 2: 167

Gillespie BM, **Bavin E**, Harbeck E, Chaboyer W. Prioritizing Care in the OR: A Qualitative Study. *AORN J*. 2025 Sep;122(3):141-152. doi: 10.1002/aorn.14398. PMID: 40878589.

Shandiz E, Gaskell A, Ingram M, Trajano G, Fernandes GL, Henkin J, **McCombe P**, **Henderson R**. Applying high-density surface EMG to the study of neuromuscular disorders: a systematic review. *Clinical neurophysiology*. 2025:2110983.

Keynote or Plenary Lectures given in 2025

Date	Title
9 July 2025	Epilepsy Society of Australia Webinar series The nuance of epilepsy care for women
23 September 2025	Communities of Practice Webinar The unique impact of epilepsy on women
26 July 2025	EmpowerHer Forum Waves and cycles: navigating epilepsy in the lives of women
26 February 2025	Epilepsy Action Australia Webinar Series Women with Epilepsy: Healthy pregnancies- Managing medications

Department of Thoracic Medicine

Research highlights

Associate Professor David Fielding continues to lead interventional pulmonology research in the department. Many novel and new diagnostic devices and technology are currently being studied under research conditions looking at; the use of ION Robotic technology to sample difficult to reach lung lesions for diagnostics, investigating a smart probe device for lung lesion characterisation using impedance technology, ongoing research collaboration with Griffith University using saliva as a biomarker to test lung nodules for cancer, ongoing collaboration with QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute (Professor Nic Waddell), UQCCR (Professor Peter Simpson), and UQ (Professor Katia Nones) to explore the use of genomic and molecular testing in lung cancer patients. Dr Farzad Bashirzadeh continues to lead a clinical trial which utilises thermal ablation in the lung as a treatment to improve lung function and quality of life in patients with end-stage chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Clinical research has also included the dual centre PET first study for order of investigations prior to biopsy as determined by PET scan. A national consortium of colleagues has been assembled to translate this study re-defining indications for the test. Other UQ collaborations include our work with the Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology on small extra cellular vesicles as nodule biomarkers. Internationally, we will be starting three multicentre studies on potential treatments for lung cancer using robotic bronchoscopy. In addition, we have had the first in Australia initiation of mobile cone beam CT in the bronchoscopy suite as part of Dr Fielding's research collaboration with the Queensland Technology Future Fund. The department reached numbers of over 200 cases of robotic bronchoscopy, establishing and maintaining the department as a national lead in the country.

Courtney Jarrett, Senior Sleep Scientist and PhD candidate, received the New Investigator award at the Australasian Sleep Association for her presentation titled "Telemedicine for regional patients: Translating sleep services closer to home" as part of her PhD project.

Research Awards and Achievements

Please list any research-related awards or achievements

Recipient (RBWH staff in bold)	Award	Event
Courtney Jarrett	2025 New Investigator Award, 'Telemedicine for regional patients: Translating sleep services closer to home'	Australasian Sleep Association annual conference, 2026. Sleep down under 2025

Research Grants

Investigator Names (RBWH staff in bold)	RBWH Departments / Research Groups	Research Project Title	Granting Body	Total Awarded (whole all years)	Length of Awards in years and years active
Dr Hervey Lau	Thoracic Medicine, Neurosurgery	Detecting subclinical brain hypoxia: Proteomic biomarkers and machine learning	RBWH Foundation	23,232	2025-2026
Associate Professor David Fielding	Thoracic Medicine	Cios Spin Mobile Cone Beam CT	Queensland Technology Future Fund	510,000	2024-2026
Associate Professor David Fielding	Thoracic Medicine	Clinical Research Fellowship, "Optimising lung nodule biopsy and characterisation for Queenslanders in the fight against lung cancer"	Qld Government Office of Research Innovation	200,000	2024-2025

RBWH Department / Research Group Led Research Activity

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
David Fielding	Farzad Bashirzadeh	Comparing outcomes of bronchoscopic Robot with EBUS GS sampling of lung nodules-diagnostic yield and resource utilisation (ION) Project	Involvement	150
David Fielding	Farzad Bashirzadeh	Streamlining lung cancer diagnosis through genomic testing of cytology	Involvement	282
David Fielding	Farzad Bashirzadeh, Chamindie Punyadeera-Griffith university	Non-invasive biomarker testing for lung nodules (VOC)	Involvement	114
Farzad Bashirzadeh		Endobronchial Thermal Liquid Ablation (ETLA) for the Treatment of Emphysema – A First in Human Study	Involvement	10
Farzad Bashirzadeh		The REDUCE Optimization Study- A study of endobronchial thermal liquid ablation (ETLA) for the treatment of emphysema	Involvement	3
David Fielding	Farzad Bashirzadeh	Advancing ION biopsies of lung nodules with novel diagnostic and biologic methods.		
Farzad Bashirzadeh	David Fielding, Kim Ryan, Dona Kafili, Shami Goonewardene	Quality of life after airway therapeutic intervention including stent (QUOTIENT)-multicentre study (5 Australia, 2 international sites)	Involvement	4

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
David Fielding	Karin Steinke, Junghwa Son	Virtual Triaging of Referrals for lung nodules	Consultation	
Courtney Jarrett (PhD candidate, Uni of Sydney)	Dr Darren O'Brien Dr Brendon Yee (Uni of Sydney) Dr Elizabeth Cayanan (Uni of Sydney)	Evaluation of the TeleSleep Pilot Model for the delivery of sleep services to regional patients	Consultation	
David Fielding	Farzad Bashirzadeh, Shami Goonewardene, Dona Kafili	A safety and feasibility evaluation of a novel bronchoscopic ultrasound scope: The NOVUS study (Phase 1 clinical trial)	Involvement	0

Collaborative Research Activity Involving RBWH Department / Research Group

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Daniel Steinfort (RMH)	David Fielding, Farzad Bashirzadeh	Synoptic procedural reporting to improve quality indicators in systematic staging in EBUS in NSCLC	Consultation	4
Florian Grimpén (Gastroenterology)	Farzad Bashirzadeh, Sarju Vasani (ENT), Kim Ryan, Yoonhwa Lee, Queensland Cancer Registry	Prevalence and predictors of aerodigestive tract second primary squamous cell carcinoma	Consultation	NA
Sam Davis (DMI)	Rob Boots, Nigel Mott, India Plath, Krishna Settipallii	Outcomes of management of intermediate/high risk pulmonary emboli at RBWH	Consultation	NA
Eli Lily (Sponsored)	Darren O'Brien, Courtney Jarrett, Hervey Lau, Donald McCleod (Endocrine)	Efficacy and Safety of LY3437943 in participants with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus who have obesity of Overweight (TRIUMPH-2)	Involvement	20

Research Publications

Authors

Investigator	ORCID ID
David Fielding	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2311-4919
Kimberley Ryan	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8188-9977
Farzad Bashirzadeh	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0761-0675
Darren O'Brien	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4876-7297

Publications in 2025

Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Afridi WA, Picos SH, Bark JM, Stamoudis DAF, Vasani S, Irwin D, **Fielding D**, Punyadeera C. Minimally invasive biomarkers for triaging lung nodules – challenges and future perspectives. 2025. *Cancer and Metastasis Reviews* 44(29), doi:10.1007/s10555-025-10247-5

Fielding D, Sidhu C, **Alkhatir M**, Alawami M, Kops SEP, van der Heijden E, **Bashirzadeh F**, **Windsor M**, **Nixon E**, **Son JH**, Setty NA, **Pattison DA**, **Fong W**, **Bhatt M**, **Dhiantravan N**, **Ramsay S**, **Boots R**, **Putt M**, **Pratt G**, **Bettington C**, Francis R, **Thomas P**, **Steinke K**, Thomas R. 2025. Biopsy decision for intermediate-high risk lung nodules is significantly changed when guided by prior positron emission tomography/CT (PET/CT) results: results of the prospective PET-FIRST study. 2025. *BMJ Open Respiratory Research*, 12:e002553. doi:10.1136/bmjresp-2024-002553

Chaddha U, Agrawal A, Murgu s, Ghori U, Trias-Sabria P, Ortiz-Comino R, Dutau H, Freitag L, Gasparini S, Lee P, Dooms C, Trisolini R, Madaringa ML, Li S, Zuccatosta L, Herth F, Saka H, **Fielding D**, Oki M, Rosell A. World Association for bronchology and interventional pulmonology (WABIP) guidelines on airway stenting for benign central airways obstruction. 2025. *Respirology*, 30 (7): 587-604. doi:10.1111/resp.70068

Lamba M, Athan e, Sukamaram V, Greig S, Haberfield K, **Bashirzadeh F**, Wardle E, Jones D, **Devereaux B**. Timing of elective endoscopic procedures in patients with recent SARS-CoV-2 infection. 2025. *Journal of Gastroenterology & Hepatology*, 40 (10):2644-2647. doi:10.1111/jgh.70060.

O'Brien D. Hitler's Female Physicians: Women Doctors during the Third Reich and Their Crimes against Humanity by Edzard Ernst. Cham, Switzerland: Springer Nature Switzerland AG, 2025. 225 pp., ISBN: 9783031739279 in *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies* XXXVIII: 165-169 (Book review)

Books (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Fielding David (2025). (PhD Thesis). *Studies of the utility of endobronchial ultrasound transbronchial needle aspiration (EBUS TBNA) samples in novel investigations of lung cancer genomics, and immune responses*. PhD Thesis, Faculty of Medicine, The University of Queensland). Doi:10.14264/fa63553

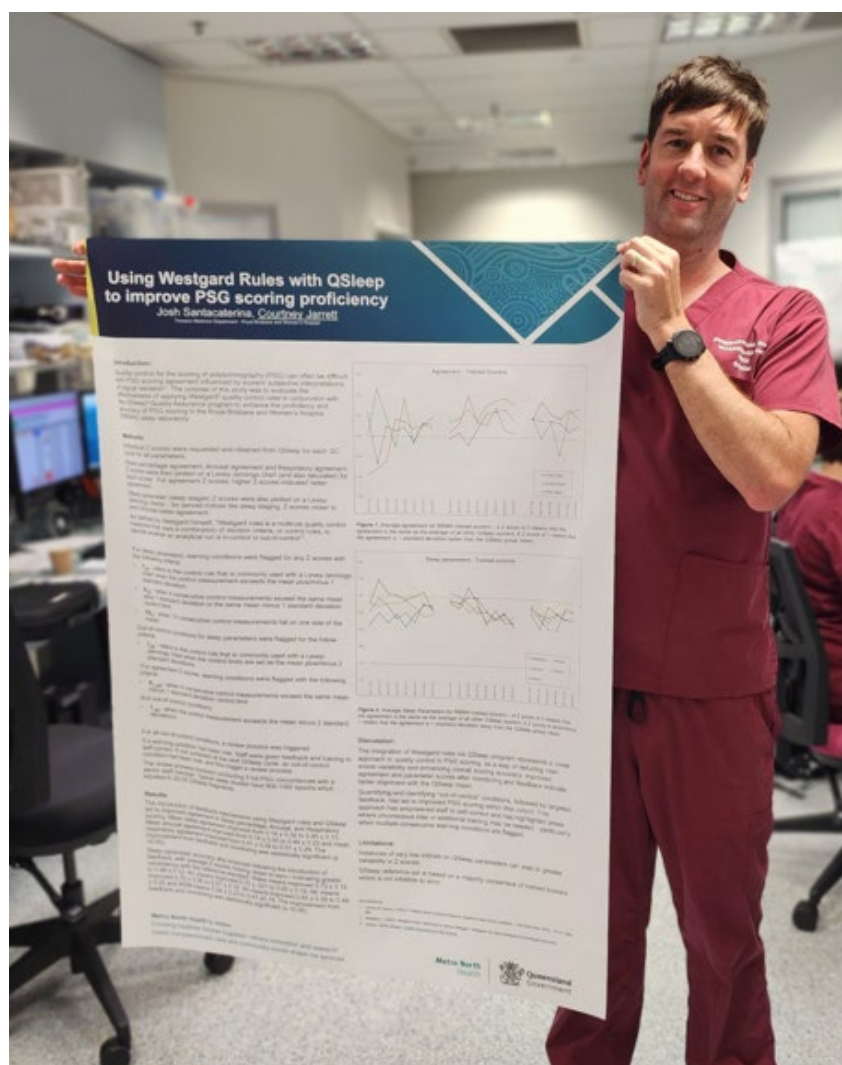
Book Chapters (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Fielding D. *Chapter 1 History of Endobronchial Ultrasound*, in Endobronchial Ultrasound Made Easy, 1st edition, (Thomas R & Yasufuku K, eds.) Ebook published 1 August 2025, CRC Press, 262 pages

Keynote or Plenary Lectures given in 2025

Date	Title
Rob Boots	RACP Hot Topics Lecture Series- "Microplastics and Clinical Relevance- the story is building" National online lecture series
Darren O'Brien October	"Ethical Conduct in Human Research' for (HSYP8003) Applied Research Methodologies in Health course, Department of Health Science, Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences, Macquarie University, Sydney
Courtney Jarrett October	'Telemedicine for regional patients: Translating sleep services closer to home' Australasian Sleep Association annual conference, 2026. Sleep down under 2025
Darren O'Brien 10 October	'TeleSleep studies and treatment – 21stcenturising sleep patient care' Australasian Sleep Association annual conference, 2026. Sleep down under 2025
David Fielding September	- Safety / Risk minimisation in Bronchoscopy - Update on Bronchoscopic biopsy of lung nodules Asia Pacific Interventional Pulmonology Association – Lectures and hands on training
David Fielding June	Masterclass on lung nodule biopsy World Association Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology – 2-day seminar

David Fielding 10-13 November	'Latest advances in diagnostic procedures for lung cancer' 29 th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respiriology, Bangalore, India
David Fielding 27-28 March	• ION Robotic Bronchoscopy – methods and tips • Managing the increased referrals for lung nodules Inaugural National Robotic Bronchoscopy Seminar, Macquarie University, Sydney, NSW
David Fielding 13-14 September	Critique of Navigation Bronchoscopy Technologies WABIP Webinar: Evolution of Interventional Pulmonology (2-day virtual WABIP symposium)
David Fielding 11 November	Scoping the Future of Bronchoscopy, Robotic Bronchoscopy 29 th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respiriology, Bangalore, India
David Fielding October	Update on Robotic Bronchoscopy Thoracic Oncology Group of Australia





Over 200 cases conducted in Robotic Bronchoscopy, November 2025



Emergency and Trauma Centre

Research highlights

In 2025, the Emergency and Trauma Centre researched significant clinical advancements and secured major funding to improve patient care within emergency medicine. A major achievement was the completion of Laura Stephensen's PhD, which examined the safety and efficacy of diagnostic pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people presenting with suspected acute coronary syndrome. This research provides a crucial foundation for care to better serve First Nations Australians with suspected myocardial infarction. On a national level, RBWH clinician-researchers influenced clinical practice with Dr Gary Mitchell contributing to new national assessment guidelines for mild traumatic brain injury (concussion) and Professor Louise Cullen developing the National Heart Foundation & Cardiac Society of Australian and New Zealand Comprehensive Australian Clinical Guideline for Diagnosing and Managing Acute Coronary Syndromes.

In 2025, there were 23 active research projects occurring, with over \$700 000 new funding added to over \$10 million in active studies involving Emergency and Trauma Centre clinician-researchers. Multiple grants were awarded by the Emergency Medicine Foundation and Metro North Health. Notable awards include a fellowship for Dr Julian Williams to advance the diagnosis and therapy of sepsis, and over \$300,000 for the ICARUS-MF trial investigating concentrated albumin for sepsis resuscitation. Angela Hills continues to lead further investigation into antimicrobial use in the Emergency and Trauma Centre. Other funded projects explored cutting-edge technology, such as that led by nurse researcher Dr Grace Xu with the use of machine learning to predict peripheral intravenous catheter needs, and novel models of education and training (Associate Professor Fran Williamson and Nicole Sng). Collaborative projects focus on pulmonary embolism (Professor Kevin Chu), hypertensive emergencies (Dr Nathan Brown), reducing low value care (Professor Louise Cullen) and many studies into mild traumatic brain injury (Dr Gary Mitchell). These achievements reflect a research culture dedicated to high-impact outcomes and the translation of evidence into clinical excellence.

Clinical and health system benefits were central to the year's outcomes, focusing on efficiency of health care delivery in the emergency setting and patient safety. The Limit of Detection in the Emergency Department (LEGEND) trial, led by Professor Jaimi Greenslade, showed that a risk assessment strategy for acute myocardial infarction reduces hospital length-of-stay for patients at low risk. Additionally, the Emergency and Trauma Centre focused on improving patient experiences through co-designed strategies for peripheral intravenous catheter care (Dr Grace Xu) and investigating the efficacy of pre-hospital treatments for nausea and vomiting (Professor Jaimi Greenslade). Other cross-sector research connecting pre-hospital care with emergency and hospital care, focussed on blood clotting in trauma (Dr Dan Bodnar) and e-scooter injuries (Dr Gary Mitchell and Claire Bertenshaw). Our pharmacy researchers continue to challenge clinical norms with novel research into the treatment of hyperkalaemia (Sam Ford).

The 2025 RBWH Emergency and Trauma Centre research built upon the strong existing focus of high quality, innovate, patient and healthcare focussed research, and continues to improve the emergency care we deliver.

Successful Research Higher Degree (e.g. MPhil or PhD) candidates in 2025

Name	Degree (e.g. MPhil or PhD)	Title	Month Completed	Affiliated University	Summary
Laura Stephensen	PhD	Characteristics and Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People with Suspected Acute Coronary Syndrome	December 2025	Queensland University of Technology	This research program examined the clinical characteristics, symptomatology, predictive cardiac risk-factors, costs of health assessment, and safety of diagnostic pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who present to an emergency department with suspected acute coronary syndrome, otherwise known as possible heart attacks. Whilst this research demonstrated the safety of current assessment strategies, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were more likely to present with atypical symptoms and had high burdens of traditional cardiac risk-factors. Exploration of assessment strategies that include early and opportunistic objective cardiac testing for underlying coronary artery disease should be prioritised.

Research Grants

Investigator Names (RBWH staff in bold)	RBWH Departments / Research Groups	Research Project Title	Granting Body	Total Awarded (whole all years)	Length of Awards in years and years active
Julian Williams	Emergency and Trauma Centre	Fellowship: Infections and sepsis in emergency - a programme to advance diagnosis and therapies	Metro North Health		3 yrs, 2025-2028
Julian Williams, Angela Hills, Jaimi Greenslade, Mercedes Ray, Paul Kuwornu	Emergency and Trauma Centre	Intervention with concentrated albumin for resuscitation of undifferentiated sepsis - Multi-facility (ICARUS-MF): A multi-centre randomised controlled trial	Emergency Medicine Foundation	\$315,347	3 yrs, 2025-2028
Grace (Hui) Xu, Anthony Nguyen, Jinghui Liu, Nathan Brown, Jed Duff, Qing Xia, Edward Pink, Nan Liu, James Hughes, Aaron Conway, Bridget Tilse	Emergency and Trauma Centre	Can a dynamic machine learning clinical decision tool accurately predict the need for peripheral intravenous catheters in emergency department patients?	Emergency Medicine Foundation	\$125,000	2 yrs, 2025-2027
Samuel Ford, Julian Williams, Angela Hills, Jaimi Greenslade, Adam La Caze, Ian Coombes	Emergency and Trauma Centre	Insulin-dextrose therapy vs glucose-only therapy for the treatment of hyperkalaemia	Emergency Medicine Foundation	\$89,428	2 yrs, 2025-2027
Grace (Hui) Xu, Rikki Currah, Nathan Brown, Samantha Keogh, Jed Duff, Vicki Binnie, Ian Murdoch	Emergency and Trauma Centre, Nursing and Midwifery Research Centre	Development and feasibility of a shared decision-making tool for pre-emptive peripheral intravenous catheter insertions in emergency departments	Metro South Health	\$100,000	2 yrs, 2025-2026

Investigator Names (RBWH staff in bold)	RBWH Departments / Research Groups	Research Project Title	Granting Body	Total Awarded (whole all years)	Length of Awards in years and years active
Angela Hills, Julian Williams, Anna Zipf, Jaimi Greenslade , Anna Peri	Emergency and Trauma Centre	Evaluating the Role of Prior Microbiological Results in Guiding Empirical Antimicrobial Therapy for Acute Infections	Emergency Medicine Foundation	\$39,419	1 yr, 2025-2026
Colin Banks, Vinay Gangathimmaiah, Jeremy Furyk, Gerben Keijzers, Philip Jones, Kevin Chu , Sean Lawrence, Georgia Livesay, Theophilus Emeto, Joshua Byrnes, Rob Eley, Nathan Brown , Cara Frain	Emergency and Trauma Centre	Suspected Pulmonary Embolism Exclusion with D-dimers in Emergency Departments (SPEED-ED)	Emergency Medicine Foundation	\$169,095	3 yrs, 2024-2026
Grace (Hui) Xu, Nicole Marsh, Jed Duff, Peter Del Mar , Robert S. Ware, Nathan Brown, Catherine O'Brien, Paul Mariano	Emergency and Trauma Centre, Nursing and Midwifery Research Centre	Does a vascular access specialist model in the Emergency Department (VAS-ED) improve peripheral intravenous catheter outcomes? A randomized controlled trial	Emergency Medicine Foundation	\$105,000	2 yrs, 2024-2026
Grace (Hui) Xu	Emergency and Trauma Centre	Co-designed strategies to enhance patient participation in their peripheral intravenous catheter care in the Emergency Department: an implementation trial (CARE-ED)	Queensland Health	\$100,000	2 yrs, 2024-2026
Jaimi Greenslade, Julian Williams, Claire Bertenshaw , Lachlan Parker, Jason Waddell, Anna Zipf , Stephanie Nixon	Emergency and Trauma Centre	Treatment for nausea and vomiting: A multi-arm double blind, placebo-controlled trial comparing the efficacy of droperidol, metoclopramide, and ondansetron for patients in the prehospital setting	Emergency Medicine Foundation	\$99,527	2 yrs, 2024-2025
Frances Williamson , Damian Candusso, Lori Lockyer, Michael Muller, Gavin Winter, Thom Saunders, Laura Owens , Christina Parker, Kate Thompson	Emergency and Trauma Centre, Trauma Service,	Can interactive online learning using enhanced technology adequately teach trauma-based procedural skills to emergency nursing clinicians?	Emergency Medicine Foundation	\$97,469	2 yrs, 2024-2025
Yit Jian Lee, Nathan Brown	Emergency and Trauma Centre	How are hypertensive urgencies managed in emergency departments in Queensland?	Emergency Medicine Foundation	\$9,766	1 yr, 2024-2025

Investigator Names (RBWH staff in bold)	RBWH Departments / Research Groups	Research Project Title	Granting Body	Total Awarded (whole all years)	Length of Awards in years and years active
Diana Egerton-Warburton, Peter Cameron, Louise Cullen , Helena Teede, Claire Rickard, Julia Morphet, Daniel M. Fatovich, Gerard O'Reilly, Emily Callander, Lisa Kuhn, Gerben Keijzers, Long Le, Joanne Enticott, Paul Buntine, Viet Tran, Leah Heiss, Carolyn Hullick, Gabriel Blecher, Stephen Gourley, Robert Lee, Tracey Hawkins, Trevor Chan, Angela Melder, Emma Saddington, Sundy Ni-Yen Yang, Cathrine Mihalopoulos	Emergency and Trauma Centre	Just Say No to the Just in Case Cannula: An Implementation Science Trial	Medical Research Future Fund	\$2,890,284	6 yrs, 2023-2029
Louise Cullen , William Parsonage , Laura Stephensen , Ray Mahoney, Jaimi Greenslade , Abdul Ihdayhid, Derek Chew, Zephania Tyack, Andrew Goodman, Susanna Cramb, Greg Starmer, Andrea McKivett, Gemma A. Figtree, Victoria McCreanor, Graham S. Hillis, Nathan Brown	Emergency and Trauma Centre	The Powerful Pictures Study	Medical Research Future Fund	\$1,488,718	4 yrs, 2023-2026
Louise Cullen	Emergency and Trauma Centre	Fellowship: A new model of care for tackling heart attacks with First Nations Australians (The Powerful Pictures Study)	Queensland Health	\$249,648	3 yrs, 2023-2026
Daniel Bodnar , Glenn Ryan, Jessica Forbes, Julian Wong, Alfred K. Lam, Emma Bosley, Robyn Charles, Martin Wullschleger	Emergency and Trauma Centre	Validation of a Modified Fibrinogen on Admission with Trauma (FibAT) Score in the Australian Setting	Emergency Medicine Foundation	\$39,952	1 yr, 2025-2026

Investigator Names (RBWH staff in bold)	RBWH Departments / Research Groups	Research Project Title	Granting Body	Total Awarded (whole all years)	Length of Awards in years and years active
Adrian C. Traeger, Sweekriti Sharma, Chris G. Maher, Louise Cullen , Kirsten McCaffery, Jeffrey A. Linder, Rachelle Buchbinder, Ian A. Harris, Enrico Coiera, Qiang Li, Kirsten Howard, Andrew Coggins, Paul M. Middleton, Naren Gunja, Ian Ferguson, Trevor Chan, Karen Tambree, Ajay Varshney	Emergency and Trauma Centre	NUDG-ED: Trial of behavioural 'nudging' interventions to reduce unnecessary care for low back pain in the Emergency Department	National Health and Medical Research Council	\$1,119,328	5 yrs, 2022-2027
Julian Williams , Angela Hills , Mercedes Ray , Jaimi Greenslade , Anna Peri, David Paterson	Emergency and Trauma Centre	Trials in Emergency for Advancing Management of Sepsis: TEAM SEPSIS	Emergency Medicine Foundation	\$261,787	3 yrs, 2022-2026

Investigator Names (RBWH staff in bold)	RBWH Departments / Research Groups	Research Project Title	Granting Body	Total Awarded (whole all years)	Length of Awards in years and years active
Melinda Fitzgerald, Vicki Anderson, Jennie Ponsford, Kirsten Vallmuur, Karen Caeyenberghs, Karen Barlow, Gary Mitchell , John Gilroy, Jesse Young, Nick Rushworth, Patrick Kwan, Belinda Gabbe, George Charalambous, Jennifer Cullen, Elizabeth Armstrong, Jonathan Bullen, Patricia Ratajczak, Biswadev Mitra, Terence O'Brien, Daniel M. Fatovich, Michael Reade, John Olver, Christopher Levi, Paul McCrory, Gill Cowen, Andrew Gardner, Alison Hutchinson, Jodie-Kate Williams, David Menon, Zongyuan Ge, Peter Bragge, Delia Hendrie, Natasha Lannin, Franz Babl, Grahame Simpson, Tamara Ownsworth, Gavin Davis, Leanne Togher, Jennifer Fleming, Alexander Ring, Maayken van den Berg, Paul Parizel, Fatima Nasrallah, Sandy Schultz, Stuart McDonald, Lyndsey Collins-Praino, Sarah Hellewell, Jenna Ziebell	Emergency and Trauma Centre	AUS-mTBI: designing and implementing the health informatics approaches to enhance treatment and care for people with mild TBI	Medical Research Future Fund	\$2,999,658	3 yrs, 2022-2025

RBWH Department / Research Group Led Research Activity

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Jaimi Greenslade	Julian Williams, Claire Bertenshaw , Lachlan Parker, Jason Waddell, Anna Zipf , Stephanie Nixon	Brisbane-based Anti-emetic Randomised Controlled Trial in the Prehospital Setting: A multi-arm double blind, placebo-controlled trial comparing droperidol, metoclopramide, and ondansetron	Involvement	0
Samuel Ford	Julian Williams, Angela Hills, Jaimi Greenslade , Adam La Caze, Ian Coombes	Insulin-dextrose therapy vs glucose-only therapy for the treatment of hyperkalaemia	Involvement	7
Daniel Bodnar	Wulschlegler M, Charles R, Ryan G, Forbes J, Wong J, Lam A, Bosley E	Validation of a Modified Fibrinogen on Admission with Trauma (FibAT) Score in the Australian Setting	Involvement	-
Julian Williams	Greenslade J, Hills A, Ray M, Carmichael H.	Intervention with concentrated albumin for resuscitation of undifferentiated sepsis (ICARUS) Multi-day: A randomised controlled trial	Involvement	-
Jaimi Greenslade	Cullen L, Parsonage W, Hawkins T.	Limit of Detection in the Emergency Department Trial (LEGEND): A stepped wedge trial of a clinical decision rule to rule out acute myocardial infarction	Involvement	2205
Louise Cullen	Parsonage W., Stephensen L. , Mahoney R., Greenslade J. , Ildayhid A., Chew D., Tyack Z., Goodman A., Cramb S., Starmer G., McKivett A., Figtree G., McCreanor V., Hillis G.,	Picture This: A new model of care for tackling heart attacks with First Nations Australians (The Powerful Pictures Study)	Consumer-Led	0
Gary Mitchell	Droder B, Smyth T, Jacobson E.	Electronic personal mobility devices surveillance: patient interview study (E-MODES II)	Involvement	
Frances Williamson	Thompson K, Parker C, Candusso D, Lockyer L, Muller M, Winter G, Saunders T, Owens L	Can interactive online learning using enhanced technology adequately teach trauma-based procedural skills to emergency nursing clinicians?	Consultation	0
Grace Xu	Duff J, Keogh S, Chu K, Jones L, Brown N.	Promoting patient participation in their peripheral intravenous catheter care in emergency departments (CARE-ED)	Partnership	150
Grace Xu	Nicole Marsh, Jed Duff, Peter Del Mar , Robert S. Ware, Nathan Brown, Catherine O'Brien, Paul Mariano	Does a vascular access specialist model in the Emergency Department (VAS-ED) improve peripheral intravenous catheter outcomes? A randomized controlled trial	Involvement	321

Collaborative Research Activity Involving RBWH Department / Research Group

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Melinda Fitzgerald (Curtin University)	Mitchell G, Brown N, Johnson L.	AUS-mTBI: designing and implementing the health informatics approaches to enhance treatment and care for people with mild TBI	Involvement	15
Colin Banks (The Townsville university Hospital)	Chu K, Brown N. Johnson L.	Suspected pulmonary embolism exclusion with d-dimers in emergency departments (SPEED-ED)	Involvement	167
Sandy Schultz (Monash University)	O'Sullivan M, Fitz-Gibbon K, Meyer S, Donkelaar P, Christie BR, Mychasiuk R, McDonald S, Law M, Vivash L, O'Brien T, Ponsford J, Jupp B, Chen Z, Mitra B, Marks J.	Traumatic brain injury in intimate partner violence	Involvement	
Yit Jian Lee (Redland Hospital)	Brown N.	How are hypertensive urgencies managed in emergency departments in Queensland?	Involvement	0
Ben Matthews (The University of Queensland)	Bodnar D , Ambe A, Salisbury I, Brown N , Sanderson P,	Understanding work practices and communication systems in emergency medical service contexts: Use cases for head-worn displays	Consultation	0

Research Activity with a Specific Focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Cullen L	Parsonage W., Stephensen L. , Mahoney R., Greenslade J. , Ildayhid A., Chew D., Tyack Z., Goodman A., Cramb S., Starmer G., McKivett A., Figtree G., McCreanor V., Hillis G.,	Picture This: A new model of care for tackling heart attacks with First Nations Australians (The Powerful Pictures Study)	-

Research Publications

Publications in 2025

Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Ambe AH, Salisbury I, Grundgeiger T, **Bodnar D, Rothwell S, Brown N**, Sanderson P, Matthews B. Patient Handover in the Emergency Department Is Not Just a Point Event: Insights for Designing Information Support Tools. Proceedings of the 2025 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems; 2025/04/25: Association for Computing Machinery; 2025. p. Article 702.

Barlow KM, Ponsford JL, Theodom A, Cowen G, Davis GA, Anderson V, Babl FE, Cole D, Cullen J, Dalziel SR, Fitzgerald M, Flavell H, Yates C, Kimble R, Olver JH, Orr R, Ralfe M, Rose M, Rushworth N, Treleaven J, Browne G, Delang N, Harris S, **Mitchell G**, Tweedy S. Mild traumatic brain injury and concussion and persisting post-concussion symptoms: new guidelines to support evidence-based assessment and management in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. Med J Aust. 2025;223(9):446-9.

Bodnar D, Ryan G, Colen A, Berkowitz G, Williams S, Wulschleger M, et al. Comparison between point-of-care international normalised ratio, COAST, TICCS and truncated FibAT scores to rule in clinically significant hypofibrinogenaemia in the prehospital setting. Emerg Med J. 2025.

Brieger D, **Cullen L**, Briffa T, Zaman S, Scott I, Papendick C, et al. National Heart Foundation of Australia & Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand: Comprehensive Australian Clinical Guideline for Diagnosing and Managing Acute Coronary Syndromes 2025. Heart Lung Circ. 2025;34(4):309-97.

Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

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Geriatric and Rehabilitation Services

Research highlights

Two quality assurance projects conducted in the Geriatric Rehabilitation and Geriatric Evaluation and Management wards showing clinical benefit of reduction in inpatient falls and occupational violence and improved patient flow through high visibility bays.

Mentorship and guidance of advanced trainees in developing their research skills with projects being presented in the Australasian and New Zealand Society of Geriatric Medicine Annual Scientific Meeting.

A Surgical, Treatment and Rehabilitation Service (STARS) research internship grant was awarded to Dr Hui-Shan Stella Lin, Geriatrician and General Physician.

Research Grants

Investigator Names (RBWH staff in bold)	RBWH Departments / Research Groups	Research Project Title	Granting Body	Total Awarded (whole all years)	Length of Awards in years and years active
Hui-Shan Stella Lin	GARS	Feasibility study of prehabilitation in frail patients awaiting total joint replacement in MNHHS	STARS Internship Grant, STARS Education and Research Alliance (SERA)	\$10,000	12 months July 2025- June 2026

RBWH Department / Research Group Led Research Activity

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Hui-Shan Stella Lin	Piyush Pius	Falls MDT huddle for falls prevention in rehabilitation wards		89
Hui-Shan Stella Lin	Prisca Har	National survey of service provision for hospitalized older adults with behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD) in public hospitals across Australia		
Aparna Arjunan	Eliza Dixon	A multidisciplinary intervention to improve management in high visibility beds in a Geriatric evaluation management setting - a quality improvement initiative.		

Collaborative Research Activity Involving RBWH Department / Research Group

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Hui-Shan Stella Lin	Professor Ruth Hubbard et al	FITTEST trial		

Research Publications

Publications in 2025

Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Published Conference abstracts in ANZSGM ASM 2025

Nishi Khetani; Stella Lin, Rehabilitation outcomes in haemodialysis patients: The role of frailty, Australasian Journal on Ageing 2025 Vol. 44 Issue S1 Page 8, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajag.70039>

Kanchuka Gunaratna; Stella Lin, Prevalence and factors influencing prescription of oral anticoagulation in people over 80 years old with non- valvular atrial fibrillation: A systematic review, Australasian Journal on Ageing 2025 Vol. 44 Issue S1 Page 18, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajag.70039>

Amy Carpenter; Stella Lin; Elizabeth McCourt; Gloria Wong, Statin therapy in patients over the age of 90, Australasian Journal on Ageing 2025 Vol. 44 Issue S1 Page 40, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajag.70039>

Perspectives of older adults over three months following an inpatient rehabilitation stay: an interview analysis (#50)
Aneesha kaur Bhagat Singh 1, Alison Mudge 2, Alice Pashley 3, Aparna Arjunan 2
Australasian Journal on Ageing 2025 Vol. 44 Issue S1 Page 26, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajag.70039>

Internal Medicine Research Unit

Research highlights

The Internal Medicine Research Unit supports clinician led, collaborative research and knowledge translation to improve the quality, experience and outcomes of hospital and post-hospital care. Our research spans many aspects of general medicine, with a particular focus on improving multidisciplinary care of older, frail and/or complex patients, including those in perioperative settings, and in improving appropriate and safe use of medications. We have a strong focus on multidisciplinary collaboration. We aim to build clinician, consumer and health student capacity in research and knowledge translation, to help answer questions that matter to patients, carers and clinicians and to support implementation of evidence into practice and policy.

In 2025, we are proud to celebrate the success of three of our team members in completing their PhD doctoral studies. Dr Karen Lee-Steere (senior occupational therapist and program manager with Eat Walk Engage) examined the perceptions and experiences of older medical and surgical patients and their family carers on delirium, delirium prevention and delirium care. Dr Alice Pashley (dietitian and senior project officer) explored new mealtime care models in rehabilitation settings and left our team for a postdoctoral position at the Centre for Ageing Research And Translation (CARAT), University of Canberra, where she has been awarded a Strategic Innovation Program Grant from the Australian Association of Gerontology. Dr Liliana Botero Zapata studied the under-recognised problem of hospital-acquired malnutrition.

In addition, Professor Alison Mudge and Dr Adrienne Young were both awarded Queensland Health Clinician Researcher Fellowships in the fields of delirium and nutrition care, highlighting their research leadership and the practical importance of their work for improving clinical outcomes. Professor Mudge's work includes the first consumer- and clinician-led research priority setting partnership internationally, which will define the top ten priorities for delirium research, while Dr Young's work will implement new quality indicators within a quality improvement collaborative across Queensland. Dr Julie Adsett, supported by a Metro North Clinician Researcher Fellowship, has completed her large-scale improvement program that is reducing mobility barriers and improving mobility in medical inpatients across Metro North Health with evaluation findings ready for release in 2026. All these studies will also measure patient benefits at scale, as well as understanding the impact of improvement approaches on staff attitudes and capacity.

The success of our research is illustrated by impacts on practice and policy. For example, advocacy within RBWH and Metro North Health that is informed by our research has led to development of a mature and evidence-based 5-year Cognitive Impairment Strategy ready for implementation in 2026, and an inaugural Metro North Health Delirium Symposium in November 2025. Our observational work, demonstrating low mobility and multiple organisational barriers, has led to Australia's first policy to maintain and restore function in healthcare. Our department led successful RBWH Foundation patient care grants that will improve the medical ward environment with a large reminiscence wall, and support continuation of Delta therapy dogs across the organisation.

Associate Professor Charles Denaro and Professor Ian Coombes with the Department of Pharmacy at the University of Sydney have completed the ASPIRE Clinical Trial funded from a \$2.4 million Medical Research Future Fund grant. This trial, with engagement of the Metro North Primary Healthcare Network, was a stepped-wedge randomised controlled trial to improve community medicines management in patients at high risk of medicines misadventure on discharge from hospital, with results available in 2026.

Successful Research Higher Degree (e.g. MPhil or PhD) candidates in 2025

Name	Degree (e.g. MPhil or PhD)	Title	Month Completed	Affiliated University	Summary
Dr Karen Lee-Steere 	PhD	Improving the care of the older patient with or at risk of delirium in the acute care setting: Patient and carer perspectives	July 2025	University of Queensland	Delirium is a common and serious complication in older patients that is highly distressing to the patient, their family carers, and healthcare staff. The need for patient-centred care and family inclusion in delirium prevention and care is reflected throughout delirium practice guidelines. However, understanding of patient and family carer perspectives of barriers and enablers to involvement is limited. This research builds important evidence regarding older patient and family carer experiences and perceptions of delirium and delirium prevention and care in hospital. Synthesised findings provide guiding principles and recommendations for patient and carer involvement in delirium prevention and care in hospital.
Dr Alice Pashley 	PhD	Exploring the therapeutic value of mealtimes in rehabilitation	July 2025	University of Queensland	Mealtimes represent a potentially underutilised component of rehabilitation care, offering opportunities not only for nutritional intake but also for physical, cognitive, psychosocial, and social therapeutic engagement. Despite this potential, there is limited evidence to guide how mealtimes should be designed and delivered to maximise therapeutic value in rehabilitation settings. To address this, this PhD research program used a mixed-methods, multi-phase design, including qualitative and multiple case study designs. Flexible mealtime structures, particularly shared dining environments, were found to support person-centred care, social interaction, and opportunities for self-directed therapeutic activity, while also presenting challenges when poorly aligned with rehabilitation needs. Building on these findings, a co-designed framework was developed to support delivery of enhanced therapeutic mealtime experiences in inpatient rehabilitation.

Name	Degree (e.g. MPhil or PhD)	Title	Month Completed	Affiliated University	Summary
Dr Liliana Botero	PhD	Changes in nutritional status and associated risk factors and outcomes of in-hospital nutritional decline in adult long-stay acute patients	July 2025	University of Queensland	While the prevalence of malnutrition on admission is well documented, far less is known about patients who experience nutritional decline during prolonged hospital stays. In particular, there is limited evidence on the incidence, risk factors, and consequences of hospital-acquired malnutrition (HAM). To address this, this PhD research program employed a multi-method research design comprising three complementary studies, including a longitudinal cohort study and qualitative interviews. Collectively, the findings demonstrate that in-hospital nutritional decline is common, frequently under-recognised, and strongly associated with worse clinical outcomes, including complications, infections, longer length of stay, and higher readmission rates. Inadequate nutrition care early in admission significantly increased the risk of persistent or worsening malnutrition, while timely nutrition interventions and meal support were associated with higher energy intake. Qualitative findings further highlighted the importance of motivation, knowledge, emotional coping, and social support in sustaining oral intake, underscoring the need for person-centred and supportive care approaches.



Research Awards and Achievements

Recipient (RBWH staff in bold)	Award	Event
Professor Alison Mudge	ANZ Deliriumologist of the Year	DECLARED biannual meeting of the Australasian Delirium Association
Dr Adrienne Young , Sarah Mackay, Dr Hannah Olufson, Anja Christoffersen, Dale Trevor, Dr Merrilyn Banks	Highly Commended, Partnering with Consumers	Herston Symposium, September 2025

Research Grants

Investigator Names (RBWH staff in bold)	RBWH Departments / Research Groups	Research Project Title	Granting Body	Total Awarded (whole all years)	Length of Awards in years and years active
Julie Adsett , Alison Mudge , A, Prue McRae , Margaret Cahill , Emily Harvey, Rachel Williams, Morag Shealy	Internal Medicine Research Unit, Physiotherapy Department	Time to get moving: Creating active hospitals to reduce hospital associated functional decline	Metro North Clinician Researcher Fellowship		4 years 2023-2026
Alison Mudge	Internal Medicine Research Unit	Improving delirium prevention and care	Queensland Health Clinician Researcher fellowship	\$249,751	2 years 2025-2027

Investigator Names (RBWH staff in bold)	RBWH Departments / Research Groups	Research Project Title	Granting Body	Total Awarded (whole all years)	Length of Awards in years and years active
Adrienne Young	Internal Medicine Research Unit, Dietetics and Food Services	Improving nutrition care in Queensland hospitals through an improvement collaborative	Queensland Health Clinician Researcher fellowship	\$249,534	3 years 2025 - 2028
Chen T, Schneider C, Gnjdic D, Hilmer S, Bennett A, Patanwala A, Cairns R, Coombes I, Denaro C, Magin P, Robinson F, Lyle D, Saurman E, Laba T, Moullin J, Luetsch K, Fujita K.	Internal Medicine and Aged Care & Department of Pharmacy	2020; Quality, Safety and Effectiveness of Medicine Use and Medicine Intervention by Pharmacists; A systems-approach to enhancing community-based medication review	Medical Research Future Fund	\$2,432,288	5 years: 2020-2025.
Alison Mudge , Meera Agar, Alice Pashley , Liliana Botero Lesley McGee	Internal Medicine Research Unit	Engaging our community in research priority setting: a priority setting partnership in delirium prevention and care.	SERTA	\$49,957	1 year 2025-2026
Julie Adsett, Alison Mudge, Prue McRae, Margaret Cahill, Elise Treleaven	Internal Medicine Research Unit, Physiotherapy Department	Getting better? A co-designed intervention to reduce functional decline in older medical inpatients	SERTA	\$49,028	1 year 2025-2026
Julie Adsett, Alison Mudge	Internal Medicine Research Unit, Physiotherapy Department	Time to get moving: Creating active hospitals to reduce hospital associated functional decline	Metro North Clinician Research Fellowship Stimulus grant	\$20,000	1 year 2025
Karin Lust Julie Adsett	Internal Medicine Research Unit	Step back in time. Environmental improvements to promote patient activity	RBWH Foundation Patient Care grant	\$17,400	1 year 2025-2026
Julie Adsett, Alison Mahoney	Internal Medicine Research Unit, Physiotherapy Department	Getting better? A co-designed intervention to reduce functional decline in older medical inpatients	TPCH Foundation	\$19,000	1 year 2025

RBWH Department / Research Group Led Research Activity

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Julie Adsett	Alison Mudge, Prue McRae, Margaret Cahill , Elise Treleaven	Getting better? A co-designed intervention to reduce functional decline in older medical inpatients	Consultation	88
Alison Mudge	Meera Agar, Alice Pashley, Liliana Botero , Lesley McGee, Lyla Edwards, Kimberley Campbell.	Engaging our community in research priority setting: a priority setting partnership in delirium prevention and care	Partnership	Not patient recruitment
Alison Mudge	Angela Byrnes, Karen Lee-Steere, Liana de Michele	Older patients' perceptions and barriers/enablers to cognitive engagement on wards implementing Eat Walk Engage	Involvement	20

Collaborative Research Activity Involving RBWH Department / Research Group

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Sarah Mackay	Adrienne Young, Jack Bell, Anja Christofferson, Dale Trevor, Alison Mudge	Malnutrition – Call it what it is or something else?	Partnership	Recruitment occurred at TPOCH
Michael Boules	Victoria Eley, Alison Mudge, Andre Van Zundert	Postoperative neural injury after non-surgical procedures: prospective observational study in patients age 60 years or older undergoing vitrectomy	Involvement	50
Amy Montgomery	Annemarie Hosie, Imelda Gilmore, Genmma McErlean, Kimberley Campbell, Layla Edwards, Annie Hepworth, Tim Luckett, Michelle DiGiacomo, Alison Mudge , Meera Agar,	VOICES: Voicing the unmet needs of older people with cancer and their care partners who have experienced delirium in Australia: A qualitative study	Partnership	Recruitment in Sydney
Claudia Virdun	Elise Button, Alison Mudge A , Gursharan Singh, Patsy Yates	Improving the quality of hospital care for people with serious illness through the use of audit and feedback of patient experience data and ward-based facilitation: an implementation pilot study	Consultation	NA-economic analysis and acceptability substudies only in 2025
Nicola Gearon	Jade Cartwright , Anna Tynan, Joanne Hilder, Alison Mudge	Exploring use of life story work in residential aged care to enable person-centred communication and relational care: a video-reflexive ethnography study	Involvement	Recruitment in Darling Downs
Jo Nolan	Tiffany Conroy, Maayken van der Berg, Amy Ross, Alison Mudge	Organisational barriers and enablers to mobility in hospital inpatients: a qualitative study	Involvement	Recruitment in SA
Gayani Amarasingh	Will Parsonage , Christina Malatzky, Sanjeeva Kularatna , Siobhan Boyle, Karin Lust	Mapping the patient journey of pregnant women with heart diseases in Queensland, Australia: A qualitative study	Involvement	20

Research Publications

Authors

Investigator	ORCID ID
Karin Lust	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6536-7191
Alison Mudge	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0242-2165
Charles Denaro	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6570-3028
Cameron Bennett	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5495-5158
Prue McRae	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1039-3632
Julie Adsett	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4230-4577
Adrienne Young	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4498-4342
Angela Byrnes	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4069-4724
Karen Lee-Steere	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0121-0136
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Liliana Botero	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8460-0606
Alice Pashley	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7984-7850
Helen Tanner	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2066-4862

Publications in 2025

Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Plaza A, Mulliss B, Adsett J, McKittirck A, Hill A, McRae P, Mudge AM. Enablers and barrier to participation in physical activity programs while hospitalized after burn injury: the patient perspective. *Burns* 2025; 51 (5):107479

Mitsutake S, Ishizaki T, Yano S, Hirata T, Ito K, Furuta K, Shimazaki Y, Ito H, **Mudge A**, Toba K. Predictive validity of hospital-associated complications of older people identified using DPC data from an acute hospital in Japan. *JMIR Aging* 2025; 8(1):e68267
 Viridun C, Singh GK, Yates P, Phillips JL, Mudge A. Understanding the acute care context to inform palliative care improvement: a qualitative study of hospital-based multidisciplinary clinicians

Viridun C, Jones L, Singh GK, Yates P, Phillips JL, **Mudge A**. Improving patient reported experience in inpatients with palliative care needs: a pre-post quality improvement study. *BMC Palliative Care* 2025; 24 (1): 245

Viridun C, Singh GK, Yates P, Phillips JL, **Mudge A**. Understanding the acute care context to inform palliative care improvement: a qualitative study of hospital-based multidisciplinary clinicians *BMC Palliative Care* 2025; 24:185

Young A, Byrnes A, McRae P, Mudge A. I. Use of the i-PARIHS framework in nutrition and dietetics research and practice: a citation analysis of the literature and case studies. *Nutr Clin Practice* 2025; 40 (6): 1301-1322

Chen H, Primrose S, Gundara J, **Mudge A**, Hubbard R, Webb P, Fleury A. The Association between frailty and the acute management of symptomatic gallstone disease in older adults *ANZ J Surg* online early 10 November 2025

Young R, King J, Young AM, Hannan-Jones M, Mudge AM, Byrnes A. "Someone to remember I need help": multi-site mixed-method study of older inpatients' experiences of eating and drinking. *J Am Geriatr Soc* 2025; 73 (11):3444-3454

Young AM, Rushton A, Carmeron A, Meloncelli N, Wilkinson SA, Pitt R, McFarlane K, Campbell KA, Harvey G, Hickman IJ. Mixed methods evaluation of the impact of Allied Health-Translating Research into Practice (AH-TRIP) program on the knowledge translation capacity of the allied health workforce. *Int J Health Policy Manage* online early 27 October 2025

Kossinna C, Lau CL, Mayr H, Wilkinson SA, **Young AM**, Meloncelli N, Cameron A, Rigby RR, Hickman IJ. Application of the Knowledge-to-Action Framework in translating nutrition and dietetic knowledge into practice: a systematic review. *Nutr Clin Practice* 2025; 40 (6): 1276-1300

Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Botero L, Banks MD, Bauer J, **Young AM**. Self-determination, optimism, social support, knowledge, and skills have a positive influence on the oral intake of long-stay acute patients: a qualitative study. *J Acad Nutr Diet*. 2025

Pashley, A., Young, A., Doig, E., Moore, J., Wright, O. (2025). Flexible, adaptable, and supportive systems: qualitative description of factors underpinning an ideal mealtime delivery in rehabilitation care settings. *Disability and Rehabilitation*,47(22) 5859-5870. doi 10.1080/09638288.2025.2471573

Pashley, A., Young, A., Doig, E., Moore, J., Wright, O. (2025). In-depth exploration of 'therapeutic mealtime experiences' in inpatient rehabilitation: mixed-methods multiple case studies. *Disability and Rehabilitation*. doi 10.1080/09638288.2025.2512055

Pashley, A., Young, A. M., Doig, E., Fay, M., Levine, R., Moore, J., Trevor D, Wright, O. R. L. (2026). Codesigned framework for maximising the therapeutic value of rehabilitation mealtimes. *Disability and Rehabilitation*, 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09638288.2025.2593759>

Sarna M, Blyth CC, Moore HC, Pereira G, McHugh L, Binks M, **Lust K**, Van Buynder P, Foo D, Andrews R, Regan AK. Neonatal and infant mortality after maternal influenza and pertussis vaccination: Probabilistically linked cohort study. *Hum Vaccin Immunother*. 2025 Dec;21(1):2587307. doi: 10.1080/21645515.2025.2587307. Epub 2025 Nov 20..

About L, Tanner H, Parsonage W, Lust K, Callaway L. Haemorrhagic and thromboembolic outcomes in pregnant patients with mechanical heart valves who undergo interruption of anticoagulation for birth – A case series. *Aust N Z J Obstet Gynaecol* 2025; 65 (2):269-76

Keynote or Plenary Lectures given in 2025

Date	Title
17/06/2025	"Moving from Task and Time to Care and Connection", Symposium on relationship building and exploring perspectives of patients, family/advocates & caregivers; International Learning Collaborative, Genoa Italy, workshop facilitated by M Cahill , R. Babine, R Pullford, S. Silver, B. Laugesen, B. Lerbaek.
7/11/2025	"Disease Related Malnutrition – Taking a National Approach to Action and Advocacy." Adrienne Young . Plenary lecture at the Australasian Society of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition, Sydney Australia.
16/8/25	Women's Cardiovascular Health: Obstetric Cardiology – "Pregnancy Counselling & Contraception". Karin Lust , Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand Annual Scientific Meeting 2025
19/3/2025	"Vaccination in Pregnancy - The Vital Role of Perinatal Health Care Workers in RSV prevention", Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand Annual Scientific Meeting

Kidney Health Service

Research highlights

The Kidney Health Service has had a fantastically productive year with multiple awards, over 50 publications and over 2.7 million in research grant funding. It is especially great to see the number of budding researchers being short-listed for awards at the Australia and New Zealand Society of Nephrology Congress, awarded grants as chief investigators and co-authors on publications – demonstrating the Kidney Health Service's commitment to nurturing the next generation of researchers and research capacity-building. These achievements would not be possible without the enthusiasm of early career researchers, generosity of mentors and support from organisational leadership.

2025 has been a year of growth with thriving research projects across the bench-to-bedside pipeline. Chin-Ya Sophie Chiang, research scientist at the Translational Kidney Pathobiology Group, was awarded Best Poster Presentation at the International Society of Extracellular Vesicles Annual Meeting for her work developing bioinformatics-driven workflows to identify kidney markers on urine extracellular vesicles (nanoparticles released by all living cells). Dr Shaun Chandler was awarded People's Choice Best Poster Presentation at the Australia and New Zealand Society of Nephrology Congress for his work evaluating the effectiveness and safety of apixaban for the prevention of blood clots in people with nephrotic syndrome. These results could lead to blood clot prevention strategies that do not require regular blood tests; reducing treatment burden and improving quality-of-life for people with nephrotic syndrome. Alex Cation led the co-design of the Adolescent and Young Adult Clinic with consumers, which was awarded the Power of Partnership Award at the Metro North Innovation Showcase.

2025 has also been a year of strengthening collaborations to accelerate discoveries and improve chronic kidney disease outcomes. Dr Kirsten Hepburn worked with the dietetics team in the SLOW-CKD study to demonstrate that low energy diets are safe in people with chronic kidney disease – an important non-pharmaceutical treatment option for obesity. The BOOST-CKD trial, led by Dr Eoin O'Sullivan in collaboration with the pharmacy team, received a "boost" from a Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital SERTA Research Project Grant. We look forward to seeing if rapid sequential initiation of anti-proteinuric therapies is feasible to reduce chronic kidney disease progression. Associate Professor Helen Healy and Dr Andrew Kassianos at the Conjoint Internal Medicine Laboratory collaborated with MRI experts at The University of Queensland to advance kidney imaging down to the microscopic level. The Clinical Trials Unit is involved in over 20 clinical studies and collaborates widely to evaluate novel therapies for chronic kidney disease.

Staff at the Kidney Health Service contribute expertise to the broader research community. Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng was appointed as an Associate Editor at the Journal of Translational Medicine and awarded Journal of the American Society of Nephrology Reviewer of the Year for the number and quality of her manuscript reviews. Dr Eoin O'Sullivan is an Associate Editor for Clinical Research in Nephrology (Frontiers in Nephrology). Dr Andrew Kassianos serves as a Review Editor for Renal Physiology and Pathophysiology (Frontiers in Physiology). Dr Dharmenaan Palamuthusingam, Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng, Dr Eoin O'Sullivan, and Professor Helen MacLaughlin participate on working groups at the Australasian Kidney Trials Network.

Successful Research Higher Degree (e.g. MPhil or PhD) candidates in 2025

Name	Degree (e.g. MPhil or PhD)	Title	Month Completed	Affiliated University	Summary
Dr Dharmenaan Palamuthusingam	PhD	Perioperative outcomes and risk assessment of patients on chronic kidney replacement therapy	July 2026	University of Queensland	This program of research examined perioperative risk and postoperative outcomes in people receiving kidney replacement therapy, addressing an evidence gap in surgical decision making for dialysis and transplant populations. Using binational registry data from ANZDATA linked with jurisdictional hospital admissions and mortality records, he quantified procedure specific risks across elective and emergency surgery, including cardiovascular and infectious complications, length of stay, readmissions, and competing risk mortality. He applied contemporary methods including target trial emulation principles, multivariable modelling with splines, mixed effects and GEE approaches, and competing risk analyses. The findings inform patient counselling, risk stratification tools, and health service planning across Australia.



Research Awards and Achievements

Recipient (RBWH staff in bold)	Award	Event
Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng	RBWH Foundation Impact Award	Metro North Staff Excellence Awards
Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng	Journal of the American Society of Nephrology Reviewer of the Year	American Society of Nephrology Journals
Dr Shaun Chandler	People's Choice Best Poster Award	2025 Australia and New Zealand Society of Nephrology Congress
Alex Cation	Power of Partnership Award – Best Consumer Partners	Metro North Innovation Showcase
Chin-ya (Sophie) Chiang	Best Overall and Wiley Journals Poster Prize	2025 International Society of Extracellular Vesicles Annual Meeting
Dr Phoebe Tin	ANZSN Shaun Summers Clinical Trainee Award – Finalist	2025 Australia and New Zealand Society of Nephrology Congress
Dr Kanzool Hasan	ANZSN Shaun Summers Clinical Trainee Award – Finalist	2025 Australia and New Zealand Society of Nephrology Congress
Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng	ANZSN Discovery and Translational Science Award – Shortlist	2025 Australia and New Zealand Society of Nephrology Congress
Dr Andrew Kassianos	ANZSN Discovery and Translational Science Award – Shortlist	2025 Australia and New Zealand Society of Nephrology Congress

Research Grants

Investigator Names (RBWH staff in bold)	RBWH Departments / Research Groups	Research Project Title	Granting Body	Total Awarded (whole all years)	Length of Awards in years and years active
Jue Wang , Professor Claire Rickard, Associate Professor Jessica Schults, Dr Eoin O'Sullivan	Kidney Health Service/University of Queensland	Evaluation of Chlorhexidine caps for central line associated bloodstream infection prevention in people needing Haemodialysis: A pilot randomised controlled trial (ECHO-HD)	RBWH SERTA	\$8,951	1 year 2025
Dr Eoin O'Sullivan	Kidney Health Service	Stimulus Grant	Metro North Health	\$20,000	1 year 2025
Dr Eoin O'Sullivan	Kidney Health Service	Cellular Senescence: Precision Medicine for Chronic Kidney Disease	Metro North Health	\$545,124	3 years 2024-2027
Dr Eoin O'Sullivan	Kidney Health Service	SENeScEnt cells as targets and biomarkers in Chronic Kidney Disease (SENSE-CKD)	Queensland Health	\$125,000	2 years 2024-2026
Dr Robert Ellis, Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng , Associate Professor George John, Dr Carla Scuderi , Alan Philip	Kidney Health Service	Capturing healthcare utilisation of different subspecialty patient cohorts	RBWH Foundation	\$35,000	1 year 2025
Dr Kirsten Hepburn , Dr Pedro Franca Gois, Associate Professor Helen Healy , Dr Martin Wolley, Dr Rebecca Sunderson, Dr Marina Wainstein, Dr Chenlei Kelly Li, Dr Matthew Damasiewicz, Dr Vera Y Miao, Dr Clyson Mutatiri, Professor Bobby Chako, Professor Ann Bonner	Kidney Health Service	Enhancing the Patient Experience and Assisting Complex Decision-Making in Haemodialysis through Digital Platforms: eConsent HD	RBWH Foundation	\$48,242	1 year 2025-2026
Dr Dharmenaan Palamuthusingam	Kidney Health Service/Digital Metro North	Big data in nephrology: Insights, Innovations and Implications	Metro North Health	\$527,991	3 years 2025-2028
Associate Professor Helen Healy , Dr Andrew Kassianos, Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng , Dr Nicola Waddell	Kidney Health Service/Conjoint Internal Medicine Laboratory	PROgnostic MicroRNA biomarkers for Acute Kidney Injury progression (PROM-AKI)	RBWH Foundation	\$50,000	1 year 2024-2025
Benjamin Adams, Associate Professor Helen Healy , Dr Andrew Kassianos, Associate Professor Chang Seong Kim	Kidney Health Service/Conjoint Internal Medicine Laboratory	Spatial Profiling of Acute Kidney Injury	University of Queensland	\$150,000	2 years 2025-2027

Investigator Names (RBWH staff in bold)	RBWH Departments / Research Groups	Research Project Title	Granting Body	Total Awarded (whole all years)	Length of Awards in years and years active
Komathi Perumal, Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng , Associate Professor Helen Healy , Dr Andrew Kassianos	Kidney Health Service/Conjoint Internal Medicine Laboratory	Leveraging complex cellular models to reveal novel druggable targets in polycystic kidney disease	University of Queensland	\$150,000	3 years 2025-2027
Dr Andrew Kassianos, Associate Professor Helen Healy , Associate Professor Quan Nguyen	Kidney Health Service/Conjoint Internal Medicine Laboratory	Spatial Prognosis And Risk Knowledge in Acute Kidney Injury (SPARK-AKI)	Queensland Health	\$125,000	2 years 2025-2027
Associate Professor Helen Healy , Dr Andrew Kassianos, Benjamin Adams, Associate Professor Quan Nguyen, Associate Professor Chang Seong Kim	Kidney Health Service/Conjoint Internal Medicine Laboratory/QIMR Berghofer	Kidney Injury in Diabetic Care and Acute Risk Evaluation (KID-CARE)	RBWH SERTA	\$50,000	1 year 2025-2026
Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng	Kidney Health Service/Conjoint Internal Medicine Laboratory	REduce Complications Associated with Nephrological Tests (RECANT) study	Queensland Health	\$200,000	2 years 2023-2025
Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng	Kidney Health Service/Conjoint Internal Medicine Laboratory	Revolutionising Precision Medicine for Kidney Diseases in the Age of Nanotechnology, Big Data and Targeted Therapies	Metro North	\$527,991	3 years 2024-2026
Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng	Kidney Health Service	Stimulus Grant	Metro North	\$20,000	1 year 2025
Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng , Associate Professor George John , Dr Carla Scuderi, Professor Jason Roberts , Lorraine Garry	Kidney Health Service	Effect of uraemic gut on absorption profile of oral tacrolimus	RBWH SERTA	\$38,700	2 years 2024-2025
Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng	Kidney Health Service	Kidney Extracellular Vesicle Atlas – an Initiative to Advance Clinical Translation of Nanoparticle Analytics	Royal Australasian College of Physicians	\$90,000	2 years 2025-2026
Chin-ya (Sophie) Chiang , Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng , Associate Professor Mark Hodson, Dr Rebekah Ziegman, Dr Kurt Giuliani, Tanu Taylor	Kidney Health Service/QIMR Berghofer	Simulating Home urine collection and storage under Real world conditions for non-invasive Extracellular vesicle-based tests to reduce hospital admissions (SHRED) study	RBWH SERTA	\$49,998	2 years 2025-2026

RBWH Department / Research Group Led Research Activity

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Dr Eoin O'Sullivan	Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng, Dr Robert Ellis, Dr Shaun Chandler, Prudence James, Dr Carla Scuderi	Better Outcomes via Optimised Sequential Therapy in CKD (BOOST-CKD)	Consultation	0
Dr Eoin O'Sullivan, Jue Wang	Professor Claire Rickard, Associate Professor Jessica Schults	Evaluation of Chlorhexidine caps for central line associated bloodstream infection prevention in people needing Haemodialysis: A pilot randomised controlled trial (ECHO-HD)	Involvement	0
Dr Eoin O'Sullivan	-	SENeScEnt cells as targets and biomarkers in Chronic Kidney Disease (SENSE-CKD)	Consultation	16
Dr Eoin O'Sullivan	Professor David Johnson, Professor Yeong Jee Cho	SENeScEnt cells as targets and biomarkers in Peritoneal Dialysis (SENSE-PD)	Consultation	0
Dr Eoin O'Sullivan	Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng, Dr Dharmenaan Palamuthusingam, Dr Robert Ellis, Nick Ehlers	Kidney Data Collaborative	Not applicable	N/A
Dr Eoin O'Sullivan	Dr Ken Chau, Dr Robert Ellis, Dr Dharmenaan Palamuthusingam,	Vasculitis map: Industrial and Climatic Correlations with ANCA Disease	Not applicable	N/A
Dr Eoin O'Sullivan	Dr Robert Ellis, Dr Shaun Chandler, Dr John Lau	A retrospective study investigating the impact of the Christchurch earthquake in 2011, South East Queensland floods in 2011 and 2022, and hear waves on clinical outcomes of haemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis patients in Australia and New Zealand	Not applicable	N/A
Dr Kirsten Hepburn	Dr Shaun Chandler, Dr Yi Ming Zhao, Dr Louise Purtell, Dr Emma Murgatroyd, Dr Rebecca Hudson, Dr Ilse Berquier, Laura Austin, Dr Benjamin Strimaitis, Dr Katherine Bartlett, Dr Chen Pan, Professor Helen Healy, Professor Ann Bonner	Withdrawal from renal replacement therapy in the context of an established Kidney Supportive Care Clinic	Not applicable	N/A
Laura Austin	Professor Nicole Marsh, Dr Amanda Corley, Dr Kirsten Hepburn, Ilse Berquier	Examining the advance care planning healthcare wishes of patients attending a Kidney Supportive Care Service	Not applicable	423
Dr Gursharan Singh	Dr Kirsten Hepburn, Laura Austin, Dr Dharmenaan Palamuthusingam, Dr Louise Purtell, Emily Qiu, Aaron Convey	Hospital Service Use in the Final Year of Life Among Patients with Advanced Kidney failure: Retrospective using data-linkage	Not applicable	N/A
Dr Dharmenaan Palamuthusingam	Professor David Johnson, Professor Carmel Hawley, Dr Magid Fahim	Perioperative outcomes and risk assessment of patient on chronic KRT	Not applicable	N/A
Associate Professor Helen Healy	Dr Andrew Kassianos, Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng, Xiangju Wang, Benjamin Adams, Chang Seong Kim, Vicki Martin	Mechanisms of progression of chronic kidney disease	Consultation	120

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Dr Shaun Chandler	Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng, Professor Dwarkanathan Ranganathan, Dr Sharad Ratanjee, Jue (Jenny) Wang, Shih Han (Shirley) Tseng	Prospective, Open-Label, Randomised Controlled Trial on Pharmacokinetics of Highlight Protein Bound Direct Oral Anticoagulant (apixaban) in Prevention and Treatment of Primary Nephrotic Syndrome Associated Thromboembolic Disease (APAXANS)	Involvement	10
Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng	Chin-Ya (Sophie) Chiang, Associate Professor Helen Healy, Dr Andrew Kassianos, Xiangju Wang, Benjamin Adams, Associate Professor Uta Erdbrugger, Dr Fabian Braun, Professor Benedetta Bussolati, Dr Cristina Grange, Samantha Upson	Extracellular vesicles in novel non-invasive tests for kidney disease	Consultation	120
Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng	Dr Helena Xiang, Professor Carmel Hawley, Associate Professor Ross Francis, Dr Katharine Hegerty, Dr Sophie Harmos, Dr Dharmenaan Palamuthusingam	Immunosuppression regimes after graft failure	Consultation	90
Dr Prianka Puri	Dr Shaun Chandler, Dr Eoin O'Sullivan, Dr Kirsten Hepburn, Shih-Han (Shirley) Tseng, Jue Wang, Tanu Taylor	Lupus MACHINES study	Involvement	30-35

Collaborative Research Activity Involving RBWH Department / Research Group

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Associate Professor Simon Jiang	Dr Eoin O'Sullivan	Compassionate access to virus-specific T cells for adoptive immunotherapy over 15 years	Not applicable	0
Dr Nyoman Kurniawan	Aurel Amar, Dr Lusie Cullen-McEwen, Dr Alexander Combes, Raeesah Hayatudin, Dr Andrew Kassianos, Jianin Du, Sarad Gazzard, Associate Professor Helen Healy, Professor Wendy Hoy, Professor John Bertram, Professor David Ruetens	Counting glomeruli in human kidney specimens using MRI without contrast agents	Involvement	2
Professor Wendy Hoy	Dr Rajitha Abeysekera, Associate Professor Helen Healy	The landscape of chronic kidney disease in Sri Lanka	Involvement	1,843
Professor Martin Gallagher	Dr Martin Wolley, Dr Eoin O'Sullivan, Jue Wang, Tanu Taylor	Spironolactone versus placebo in patients undergoing maintenance dialysis (ACHIEVE)	Involvement	10

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Novartis Pharmaceuticals	Dr Dharmenaan Palamuthusingam, Professor Dwarakanathan Ranganathan, Dr Martin Wolley, Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng, Jue Wang	Atrasentan in Patients With Proteinuric Glomerular Diseases (AFFINITY)	Involvement	1-5
Alexion	Dr Shaun Chandler, Professor Dwarakanathan Ranganathan, Shih-Han (Shirley) Tseng, Jue Wang	Atypical Haemolytic Uraemic Syndrome (aHUS) Registry	Involvement	1-5
Novartis Pharmaceuticals	Dr Dharmenaan Palamuthusingam, Dr Martin Wolley, Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng, Jue Wang	Atrasentan in Patients With IgA Nephropathy (ALIGN)	Involvement	25-30
Alexion	Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng, Professor Dwarakanathan Ranganathan, Tanu Taylor	Study of Ravulizumab in Proliferative Lupus Nephritis (LN) or Immunoglobulin A Nephropathy (IgAN) (SANCTUARY)	Involvement	1-5
Alexion	Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng, Dr Shaun Chandler, Dr Jayna Gill, Tanu Taylor, Jue Wang	Study of Ravulizumab in Immunoglobulin A Nephropathy (IgAN) (ICAN)	Involvement	1-3
Dr Sree Krishna Venthurapalli	Professor Dwarakanathan Ranganathan, Dr Eoin O'Sullivan, Dr Zaw Thet, Dr Roy Cherian, Dr Clyson Mutairi, Jue Wang	Multicentre prospective observational cohort study investigating association between ANCA results and relapse of ANCA associated vasculitis	Involvement	1-5
Professor Eric Morand, Associate Professor Alberta Hoi	Dr Eoin O'Sullivan, Professor Dwarakanathan Ranganathan, Jue Wang	Australian Lupus Registry and Biobank	Involvement	5-15
Boehringer-Ingelheim	Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng, Dr Martin Wolley, Professor Dwarakanathan Ranganathan, Tanu Taylor, Jue Wang	A Study to Test BI 764198 in People With a Type of Kidney Disease Called Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis	Involvement	1-5
Professor Andrew Mallett	Dr Martin Wolley, Dr Eoin O'Sullivan, Jue Wang	Implementation of Metformin therapy to Ease DEcline of kidney function in PKD (IMPEDE-PKD)	Involvement	10-15
Professor Peter Kerr, Professor David Johnson, Associate Professor Andrea Viecelli	Dr Shaun Chandler, Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng, Jue Wang	The INCRemental dialysis to improve Health outcomes in people starting Haemodialysis (INCH-HD) study: a randomised controlled trial	Involvement	2
Professor Sunil Badve, Professor Rathika Krishnasamy	Dr Sharad Ratanjee, Dr Martin Wolley, Shih-Han (Shirley) Tseng, Tanu Taylor	Pragmatic randomised trial of High Or Standard PHosphAtE Targets in End-stage kidney disease (PHOSPHATE)	Involvement	10-15
Dicerna Pharmaceuticals	Dr Martin Wolley, Dr Madhivanan Sundaram, Jue Wang	Long Term Extension Study in Patients With Primary Hyperoxaluria (PHYOX3)	Involvement	1-5

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Dr Sree Krishna Venthurupalli	Dr Dharmenaan Palamuthusingam, Professor Dwarakanathan Ranganathan	Queensland Renal Biopsy Registry	Involvement	100-105
Associate Professor Clare Arnott, Professor Sunil Badve	Dr Dharmenaan Palamuthusingam, Dr Eoin O'Sullivan, Dr Martin Wolley, Jue Wang	Renal LIFECYCLE Trial	Involvement	5-10
AbbeVie	Dr Martin Wolley, Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng, Dr Madhivanan Sundaram	A Study to Assess Adverse Events and Effectiveness of IntraVenous Infusions of ABBV-CLS-628 in Adult Participants With Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease (ADPKD) (ANCHOR)	Involvement	1-5
Professor Jason Roberts	Dr Shaun Chandler, Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng, Dr Patty Mitre, Vicki Allen, Angela Schmidt, Dr Helen Won	Pharmacokinetics of Oral Letemovir in Adults with End-Stage Kidney Disease with or without Haemodialysis	Involvement	0

Research Publications

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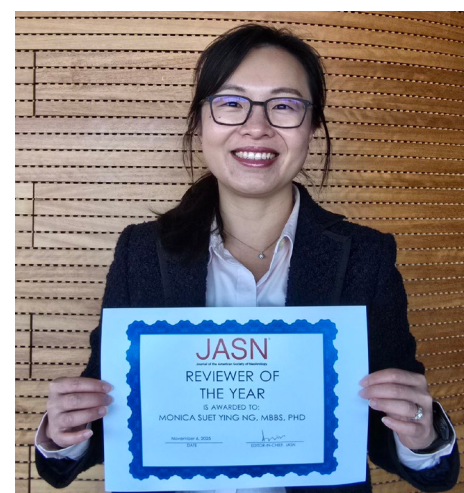
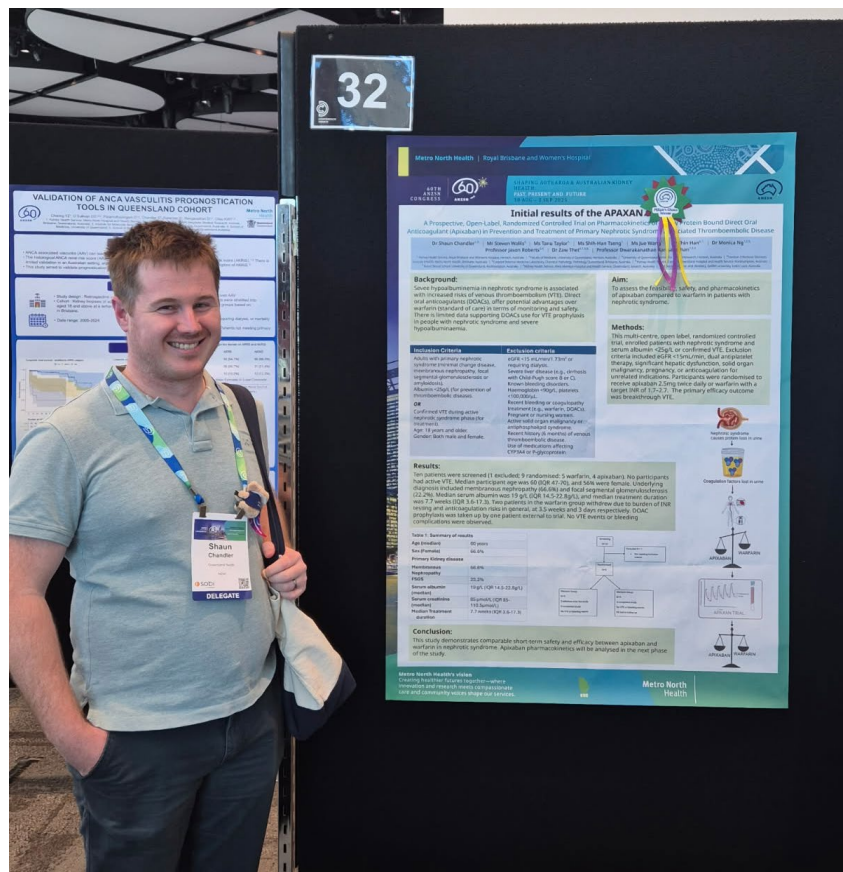
Book Chapters (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Erdrügger U, van Royen ME, Verhaegh GW, Grange C, Burger D, Greig M, Welsh JA, Nyman TA, Llorente A, Martens-Uzunova E, Puhka M, Barreiro KA, **Ng MSY**. Analysis of Urinary Extracellular Vesicles. *Extracellular Vesicles 2025*: 115-166.

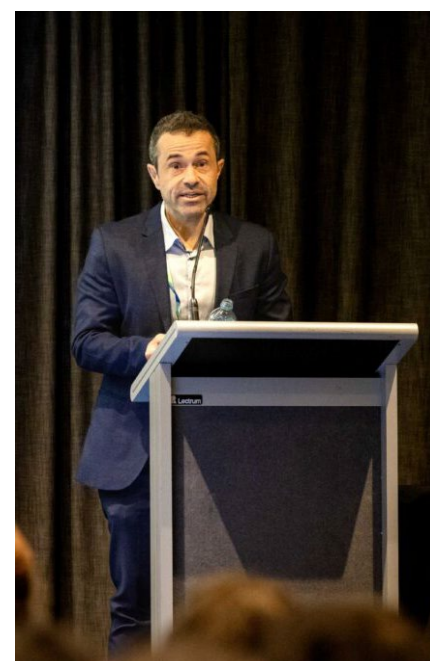
Keynote or Plenary Lectures given in 2025

Date	Title
8 November 2025	Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng (speaker) - Why Extracellular Vesicles?; Extracellular Vesicle-Based Therapeutics for CKD: The Way of the Future, American Society of Nephrology Kidney Week; Houston, USA
15 October 2025	Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng (chair) - GUSEV Webinar on Transplantation (virtual), International Society of Extracellular Vesicles
3 September 2025	Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng (speaker) - Extracellular vesicles as diagnostic tools; Australia and New Zealand Society of Nephrology Congress; Perth, Australia

3 September 2025	Dr Kirsten Hepburn (chair) – Kidney Supportive Care; Australia and New Zealand Society of Nephrology Congress; Perth, Australia
2 September 2025	Dr Andrew Kassianos (speaker) - MicroRNA biomarkers of tubular ferroptosis predict acute kidney injury progression; Discovery and Translational Award Session; Australia and New Zealand Society of Nephrology Congress; Perth, Australia
2 September 2025	Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng (speaker) - Multi-omic signature of urine extracellular vesicles from people with Chronic Kidney Disease; Discovery and Translational Award Session; Australia and New Zealand Society of Nephrology Congress; Perth, Australia
30 August 2025-31 August 2025	Dr Eoin O'Sullivan (organiser, chair) - Australia and New Zealand Society of Nephrology Continuing Medical Education Course; Perth, Australia
31 August 2025	Dr Kirsten Hepburn (chair) – Hypertension and the Kidney; Australia and New Zealand Society of Nephrology Continuing Medical Education Course; Perth, Australia
30 August 2025	Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng (chair) - Glomerular Disease Spotlight, Australia and New Zealand Society of Nephrology Continuing Medical Education Course; Perth, Australia
21 August 2025	Dr Dharmenaan Palamuthusingam (panel expert) – Metro North Research Summit “AI in Healthcare”; Brisbane, Australia
6 August 2025	Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng (chair) - ISEV Journal Club (virtual), International Society of Extracellular Vesicles
5 June 2025	Dr Madhivanan Sundaram (speaker) – Approach to genomic diagnosis of renal disorders, Glomcon; Virtual
20 March 2025	Dr Robert Ellis (speaker) - Kidney Failure due to diabetes mellitus in young Australians: a population-based geospatial analysis; SAHMRI Registry Centre Annual Symposium; Adelaide, Australia
20 February 2025	Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng (chair) - GUSEV Education Day, International Society of Extracellular Vesicles; Virtual



Left: Dr Shaun Chandler with his award-winning poster at 2025 Australia and New Zealand Society of Nephrology Congress in Peth, Australia. **Top Right:** Holly Mchenery-Wakelin and Alex Cation presenting AYA Co-design work at Metro North Innovation Showcase. **Bottom Right:** Dr Monica Suet Ying Ng was awarded Journal of American Society of Nephrology Reviewer of the Year Award



Left: Chin-Ya Sophie Chiang (Translational Kidney Pathobiology Group) receiving the Best Poster Award at the International Society for Extracellular Vesicles' Annual meeting in Vienna, Austria. Left to right: Professor Andreas Möller (Hong Kong), Professor Jan Lötvald (Sweden), Chin-Ya Sophie Chiang (Australia), Professor Eva-Maria Krämer-Albers (Germany), Professor Eva Rohde (Austria), Professor Andy Hill (Australia). **Right:** Dr Andrew Kassianos presenting at the Discovery and Translational Award Session at the 2025 Australia and New Zealand Society of Nephrology Congress in Perth, Australia.

Metro North Sexual Health and HIV Service

Research highlights

During this reporting period, Metro North Sexual Health and HIV Services maintained an active clinical research portfolio. The service participated in four global Phase 3 randomised controlled trials sponsored by Merck Sharp & Dohme, investigating the efficacy of switching virologically suppressed patients to the novel once-daily combination of Doravirine/Islatravir. Two of these trials (MK-8591A-017 and MK-8591A-018) concluded during the reporting period, while the remaining two (MK-8591A-051 and MK-8591A-052) continue with extensions to 2028. Alongside active pharmaceutical research, the service also contributed to the Australian HIV Observational Database, a University of New South Wales-led cohort study that has provided critical surveillance data, which has existed since 1999. Whilst this data is regularly used to inform State and Commonwealth HIV policy, unfortunately, over the reporting period, this project was placed on hold following the withdrawal of funding support from the American sponsor. Lastly, the service supported the Cohort of Australian Women with HIV study in a recruitment capacity, identifying eligible participants and facilitating referral to the Herston Infectious Diseases Institute for enrolment and follow-up.

Collaborative Research Activity Involving RBWH Department / Research Group

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Gaffney L	Smith A, Van Lieshout T, Redmond A	MK8591A-018: A Phase 3, Randomized, Active-Controlled, Double-Blind Clinical Study to Evaluate a Switch to Doravirine/Islatravir (DOR/ISL) Once-Daily in Participants With HIV- 1 Virologically Suppressed on Bictegravir/Emtricitabine/Tenofovir Alafenamide (BIC/FTC/TAF)		6
Gendrano I	Smith A, Van Lieshout T, Redmond A	MK8591A-017: A Phase 3 Randomized, Active-Controlled, Open-Label Clinical Study to Evaluate a Switch to Doravirine/Islatravir (DOR/ISL) Once-Daily in Participants With HIV-1 Virologically Suppressed on Antiretroviral Therapy		6
Barninger E	Smith A, Van Lieshout T, Redmond A	MK-8591A-052: A Phase 3, Randomized, Active-Controlled, Double-Blind Clinical Study to Evaluate a Switch to Doravirine/Islatravir (DOR/ISL 100 mg/0.25 mg) Once-Daily in Participants With HIV-1 Who Are Virologically Suppressed on Bictegravir/Emtricitabine/Tenofovir Alafenamide (BIC/FTC/TAF)		6
Jackson B	Smith A, Van Lieshout T, Redmond A	MK-8591A-051: A Phase 3, Randomized, Active-Controlled, Open-Label Clinical Study to Evaluate a Switch to Doravirine/Islatravir (DOR/ISL 100 mg/0.25 mg) Once-Daily in Participants With HIV-1 Who Are Virologically Suppressed on Antiretroviral Therapy.		6
Petoumenos K	Smith A, Van Lieshout T, Redmond A	Australian HIV Observational Database		120

Research Publications

Authors

Investigator	ORCID ID
Angela Smith	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5054-1196
Andrew Redmond	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1125-5362
Arron Sparkes	
Luke Coffey	https://orcid.org/0009-0004-3600-7121
Sara Yeganeh	
Jewel Wai	https://orcid.org/0009-0005-7958-5383

Publications in 2025

Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

van Rooij N, **Sparkes A**. Biologic and small-molecule therapies for chronic plaque psoriasis in people living with HIV: Current evidence and clinical practical considerations. *British Journal of Dermatology*. 2025 Dec 1; doi:10.1093/bjd/ljaf493

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Warzywoda S, Dyda A, Fitzgerald L, Mullens AB, Fowler JA, **Coffey L**, et al. Healthcare and service provider perspectives on pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV among young Australians. *Sexual Health*. 2026 Jan 5;23(1). doi:10.1071/sh25172

Palliative and Supportive Care Service

Research highlights

The Royal Brisbane Palliative and Supportive Care Department has continued to collaborate with other specialties within the RBWH to produce research projects and activities. This year saw the conclusion of our collaboration with Cardiology to introduce the Cardiology Supportive Care Service to the RBWH. We continue to be actively involved in clinical practice, including research within the hepatology service, the nephrology service and in the motor neurone disease area.

We look forward to active involvement in other spaces, such as the Intensive Care Unit and beginning research into carer bereavement and satisfaction of care in the coming year.

Collaborative Research Activity Involving RBWH Department / Research Group

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Dr Shana Taubert	Dr Annette Collins, Dr Robert Henderson, Dr Pamela McCombe, Lily Tang, Dr Katrina Kramer , Laurelie Wishart, Clare Burns	Co-Design and Non-Randomised Pilot Evaluation of Resources Developed to Optimise Saliva Management in People with Motor Neurone Disease	Partnership	28
Professor Janet Hardy	Dr Ristan Greer, Anita Pelecanos, Georgie Huggett, Dr Alison Kearney , Dr Taylan Gurgenci, Professor Phillip Good	Medicinal cannabis for symptom control in advanced cancer: a double-blind, placebo controlled, randomised clinical trial of 1:1 tetrahydrocannabinol and cannabidiol	Involvement	

Research Publications

Authors

Investigator	ORCID ID
Dr Katrina Kramer	https://orcid.org/0009-0003-4990-7973
Dr Alison Kearney	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3361-192X

Publications in 2025

Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Dr Shana Taubert, Dr Annette Collins, Associate Professor Robert Henderson, Dr Pamela McCombe, Lily Tang, **Dr Katrina Kramer**, Laurelie Wishart, Clare Burns. Co-Design and Non-Randomised Pilot Evaluation of Resources Developed to Optimise Saliva Management in People with Motor Neurone Disease. Healthcare 2025, 13(21), 2813. In the special Issue Improving Care for People Living with ALS/MND

Professor Janet Hardy, Dr Ristan Greer, Anita Pelecanos, Georgie E Huggett, **Dr Alison M. Kearney**, Dr Taylan H. Gurgenci and Professor Phillip Good. Medicinal cannabis for symptom control in advanced cancer: a double-blind, placebo-controlled, randomised clinical trial of 1:1 tetrahydrocannabinol and cannabidiol. Supportive Care in Cancer (2025) 33:715

Queensland Statewide Antimicrobial Stewardship Program

Research Publications

Authors

Investigator	ORCID ID
Dr Sarah Boyd	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5158-5032
Dr Angela Berkhout	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6173-7768

Publications in 2025

Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

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Moore T, Nourse C, Dai S, Zappala T, **Berkhout A**. Fifteen-minute consultation: approach to recurrent cutaneous and ophthalmic herpes simplex virus infection. *Arch Dis Child Educ Pract Ed*. 2025;110(6):244–249. doi:10.1136/archdischild-2024-327381.

Berkhout A, Clark JE, Jones CA, McMullan B, Grimwood K, Britton PN, Palasanthiran P, Lim S, Yeoh DK, Wong S, Cheng DR, Gwee A, Cross J, Nguyen T, Jeffs E, Walls T, Mahony M, Yan J, Nourse C. Parenteral aciclovir for suspected herpes simplex virus infection in children (0–18 years). *J Antimicrob Chemother*. 2025;80(2):354–362. doi:10.1093/jac/dkae411.