



Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

RBWH Research Report 2025

Surgical and Perioperative 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.

Published by the State of Queensland (Metro North Hospital and Health Service), June 2026



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Department of Anaesthesia: Research Interest Group in Anaesthesia

Research highlights

The Departmental Research Interest Group in Anaesthesia (RIGA), chaired by Professor Victoria Eley, continues to foster a strong and sustainable research culture within the department. This culture has led to significant growth in both researcher participation and research output. Our program is committed to producing high-quality research that improves patient outcomes at local, state, national, and international levels.

Researchers at all career stages are supported through structured mentorship and guidance from the Quality Improvement and Research Manager, Christine Woods, and our Clinical Research Nurses Heather Reynolds, Nupie Singh, Tricia Kent, and Jodie Genzel.

In 2025, the Research Manager administered over one million dollars in competitive research funding across department-led and collaborative projects and our research productivity during the past year included 32 peer-reviewed journal publications, 2 books and 3 book chapters.

Members of the department actively contributed to national and international conferences through keynote presentations, invited lectures, workshop organisation, and session chairing.

We congratulate our higher degree research students, Dr Sue Lawrence and Dr Gladness Nethathe, on the successful completion of their PhD studies. We also acknowledge the achievements of our research award recipients: Professor André van Zundert, Dr Tim Nolan, Professor Victoria Eley and research team, Dr Anthony Hade, Dr Danielle Leithhead and Dr Anthony Ji. Additionally, Dr Nathan Peters and Associate Professor Michelle Roets were finalists in the 2025 Metro North Research Excellence Awards, and Associate Professor Kerstin Wyssusek was a finalist for Best Free Paper at the 2025 ANZCA Annual Scientific Meeting.

Our research aims to optimise anaesthetic care and improve patient outcomes. Current research themes include anaesthetic pharmacology, bariatric anaesthesia, perioperative patient warming, pain and iron deficiency, and blood transfusion practices in relation to removing cancer cells and bacteria during surgery. Special focus is placed on high-risk populations, including pregnant patients, oncology patients and bariatric patients.

Our established research infrastructure supports evidence-based practice and ongoing innovation in anaesthesia.

RIGA continues to strengthen research capacity, support emerging investigators, and contribute meaningful evidence to improve anaesthetic practice and patient outcomes. Sustained funding success, strong mentorship, and collaborative engagement position the department as a leader in clinical anaesthesia research.

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 practice	September 2025	University of Queensland	The thesis explores the unfamiliar anatomy of the interlaminar space and posterior epidural space segment.
Dr Gladness Nethathe 	PhD	In vitro dexamethasone suppression of cytokine production assay and plasma total and free cortisol responses to ACTH	December 2025	University of Witwatersrand	This internal medicine study investigates the neuroendocrine stress response in healthy volunteers.
Dr Kathy Ball	PhD	The effects of the Rebozo technique in second stage labour to correct malposition for women with epidurals.	December 2025	University of Queensland	The thesis explores the use of a low-intervention technique to reduce malposition during labour.

Research Awards and Achievements

Recipient (RBWH staff in bold)	Award	Event
Tim Nolan	2025 ANZCA Trainee Research Prize for presentation: Bleeding dollars: a retrospective audit of preoperative blood ordering for selected elective inpatient surgeries performed at Cairns Hospital	ANZCA ASM, Cairns
Andre van Zundert	2025 Carl Koller Gold Medal in recognition of outstanding lifetime contribution to the field of Regional Anaesthesia and/or Pain Medicine	42nd annual European Society of Regional Anaesthesia and Pain Therapy (ESRA), Oslo, Norway
Michelle Roets and Andre van Zundert , Alexandra Neate, Carson DeFreitas, Gurpreet Saini, Terence Jothi Felix	2025 Year 4 medical students UQ Best Poster Presentation	Scholarly Project Showcase, University of Queensland, 9 October
Andre van Zundert	2025 National finalist	AVANT Transformation Grant (\$100,000), Sydney, recognising research excellence across all medical specialities in Australia
Kerstin Wyssusek	2025 finalist, Best Free Paper Award: Postoperative pain following mastectomy – A retrospective audit	ANZCA ASM, Cairns
Victoria Eley, ASCENT Breastmilk Team	2025 Gilbert Troup Award, 2 nd place, \$3,000	ASA National Scientific Congress, Canberra

Recipient (RBWH staff in bold)	Award	Event
Anthony Hade	Awarded recipient from 2025 UQ Mayne Academy of Critical Care Research Funding for his research project: Is jelly a solid or a clear liquid? A pilot study on the gastric emptying of fruit-flavoured gelatin dessert.	4th UQ Mayne Academy of Critical Care Research Day, 9 July
Danielle Leithhead	2025 Award recipient from UQ Mayne Academy of Critical Care Research Funding for her research study: Effectiveness of peripheral nerve block in preventing severe pain following ankle surgery.	4th UQ Mayne Academy of Critical Care Research Day, 9 July
Anthony Ji	2025 Winner of the Best Lightning Presentation: "3-minute magic" oral presentation segment: Red Stripe Emergency Indicator	Metro North Innovation Showcase to help transform patient care, 13 June
Nathan Peters, Frances Williamson, Adam Treblico, Claire Rickard, Joel, Thomas, Christine Woods, Adrian Chin, Gerard Eames	2025 Finalist in Research Implementation for their study: Increasing the availability of ultrasound-guided vascular access through research, implementation and education.	Metro North Research Excellence Awards
Michelle Roets, Julie Lee, Victoria Eley, Rebecca Kimble, Andre van Zundert, David Sturgess, Melinda Dean, Christine Woods	2025 Finalist in the Clinical Research category entitled: Perioperative Patient Blood Management - Saving lives, saving blood, saving precious resources and improving patient outcomes.	Metro North Research Excellence Awards

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
Kerstin Wyssusek, Paul Gray, Christine Woods, Anita Pelecanos, Julie Lee, Michelle Spanevello	Department of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine	Intravenous iron infusion therapy in chronic pain patients with iron deficiency: VITAL, a randomised controlled trial	Pharmacosmos	\$79,860	4 years 2023-2026
Victoria Eley	Department of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine	Optimizing perioperative blood pressure measurement in obese patients: a program of research	ANZCA Academic Enhancement Grant	\$100,000	5 years 2020-2025
Michelle Roets	Department of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine	How effective is intraoperative cell salvage (ICS) and a leuco-depletion filter (LDF) in removing cancer cells and bacteria during pelvic exenteration surgery?	The Patricia Mackay Memorial ANZCA Research award	\$66,231	2 years 2024-2026
Michael Boules	Department of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine	PONI Study: Postoperative neural injury in non-neurosurgical procedures: Prospective observational study of elective vitrectomy in patients 60 years or older	UQ Mayne Academy of Critical Care Research	\$10,000	2 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
Victoria Eley, Christoph Lehner, Elizabeth Martin, Nigel Lee, Tim Donovan, Jayesh Dhanani, Jason Roberts	Department of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine	Nebulised fentanyl for labour pain – pharmacokinetic and feasibility study	ANZCA Project Grant	\$63,483	3 years 2023-2026
Lauren Kearney, Victoria Eley , Deanne August, Christoph Lehner, Bec Jenkinson, Amanda Ullman, Nicole Marsh , Rachel Nugent, Nigel Lee, Susan de Jersey, John Thompson, Jean Spinks	Department of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine	Fluids in labour: Ensuring Maternal Euvolaemia (FLUME) study	RBWH SERTA Grant	\$70,000	2 years 2023-2025
Fraser Morton, Michael Busser, Victoria Eley	Department of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine	The relationship between hunger and gastric volumes assessed by ultrasound in patients with an acute abdomen	ANZCA Project Grant	\$17,808	3 years 2023-2025
Anthony Eidan, Gladness Nethathe, Christine Woods , John Riordan, Fraser Morton, Jessica Lim , Michael Toon	Department of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine	Quality of Recovery Comparison between Opioid-Free Anaesthesia And Opioid-Containing Anaesthesia for Elective Laparoscopic Surgery	ANZCA Novice Investigator Grant	\$19,134	3 years 2024-2026
Michael Boules	Department of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine	Postoperative neural injury in non-neurosurgical procedures: prospective observational study in older adults	ANZCA Novice Investigator Grant	\$20,000	3 years 2025-2027
André van Zundert, Victoria Eley	Department of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine	Human brain organoid models to investigate anaesthesia induction and reversal agents	ANZCA Project Grant	\$69,952	3 years 2025-2027
Victoria Eley	Department of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine	International multicentre study: Inadequate neuraxial anaesthesia and post-natal mental health	ANZCA Clinical Trials Network Pilot Grant	\$10,000	4 years 2024-2027

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
Judy Munday, Jed Duff , Fiona Wood, David Sturgess , Samantha Keogh, Nicholas Ralph, Lee Jones, Katharina Merollini, Ian Graham, Christine Woods , Kerstin Wyssusek , Elizabeth Strathdee	Department of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine	The GLOW Trial: Implementing Guidelines for hypothermia prevention with local adaptation to keep periOperative patients Warm	NHMRC Partnership Grant	\$183,071	3 Years 2023-2026
Paul Lant, Clement Chan, Bronwyn Laycock, Steven Pratt, Kerstin Wyssusek	Department of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine	Biodegradable Plastic Composites for Healthcare in Queensland – Medication and Procedural Tray Clinical Evaluation Project	State of Qld, Dept of Environment, Science and Innovation Grant	\$21,822	2 Years 2024-2025
Amy Lin	Department of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine	Self-administration of non-opioid oral analgesia post Caesarean delivery: a consumer co-designed implementation project	RBWH Foundation	\$44,310	2 years 2025-2026
Angela Tognolini	Department of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine	The LIIDO Study (Lidocaine Intraoperative Infusion Dose Optimisation): Evaluating an optimised intraoperative lidocaine infusion in patients with obesity	RBWH Foundation	\$50,000	2 years 2025-2026
Angela Tognolini	Department of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine	The LIIDO Study (Lidocaine Intraoperative Infusion Dose Optimisation): Evaluating an optimised intraoperative lidocaine infusion in patients with obesity	UQ Mayne Academy of Critical Care Research	\$3,000	2025
André van Zundert	Department of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine	Reconciling pre- and postsynaptic effects of general anaesthesia in a mouse model	ANZCA Academic Enhancement Grant and Robin Smallwood Bequest	\$70,000	2 years 2025-2026
Angela Tognolini	Department of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine	The LIIDO Study (Lidocaine Intraoperative Infusion Dose Optimisation): Evaluating an optimised intraoperative lidocaine infusion in patients with obesity	ANZCA Project Grant and Scholarship - Elaine Lillian Kluver Research Award	\$90,000	2 years 2025-2026
Michael Boules	Department of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine	Postoperative neural injury in non-neurosurgical procedures: prospective observational study in older adults	ANZCA Scholarship Skantha Vallipuram Scholarship, ANZCA Novice Investigator Grant	\$20,000 \$20,000	2 years 2025-2026 2024-2026
Michelle Roets	Department of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine	Technological Advance Associated with Improved Patient Outcomes during Peri-Operative Blood Transfusion (TAIPO-POT)	Health Clinician Research Fellowship, Metro North Fellowship Program, May 2025	\$400,737	2025-2028

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
Paul Gray	Department of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine	Leveraging crosstalk to mitigate opioid induced ventilatory impairment	ANZCA Project Grant	\$70,000	2 years 2025-2027

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
Fraser Morton	Victoria Eley , Matthys Campher, Emma Ballard, David Cavallucci , Nathan Peters , Peter Van de Putte	GASTRIC ULTRASOUND STUDY: The relationship between hunger and gastric volumes assessed by ultrasound in patients with acute abdomens	Involvement	
Angela Tognolini	Victoria Eley , Jason Roberts , Dr Xin Liu, Steven Wallis, Helen Won, Christine Woods	The LIIDO Study (Lidocaine Intraoperative Infusion Dose Optimisation): Evaluating an optimised intraoperative lidocaine infusion in patients with obesity	Involvement	
Amy Lin	Eavan O'Brien , Gareth Collins , Noor Al-Adhami , Stephanie Hoy , Andrea Kelley , Louise Johnston , Louise Johnston , Christine Woods , Annabel Van Der Nagel, Lauren Kearney , Victoria Eley	SNAP-2-CS study: Self-administration of non-opioid oral analgesia post Caesarean delivery: a consumer co-designed implementation project	Consultation	
Victoria Eley	Adrian Chin , Anita Pelecanos, George Hopkins , Moe Thuzar, Severine Navarro, Michael Stowasser	BEAM and BEAM Plus: BP error and Arm Morphology Studies	Involvement	
Anthony Hodge	Jason Roberts , Victoria Eley , Steven Wallis, Angela Tognolini	Pharmacokinetic profile of sugammadex in the obstetric population	Involvement	
Gladness Nathathe	Anthony Eidan, Victoria Eley , Christine Woods , Fraser Morton , John Riordan, Adam Cowan, Anna Surla	OFA: Comparison of opioid versus opioid-free anaesthesia for elective laparoscopic abdominal surgery	Involvement	1
Kerstin Wyssusek	Paul Gray , Christine Woods , Julie Lee , Anita Pelecanos , Greg Anderson	VITAL: The efficacy of IntraVenous Iron Therapy in persistent pAin patients with iron deficiency: a randomised controlled trial	Involvement	20
Michael Boules	Alison Mudge, Jonathon Fanning, Stuart McDonald, Lisbeth Evered, David Sturgess , André van Zundert , Anita Pelecanos, Victoria Eley	PONI Study: Postoperative neural injury in non-neurosurgical procedures: Prospective observational study of elective vitrectomy in patients 60 years or older	Involvement	
Victoria Eley	Christoph Lehner , Elizabeth Martin, Nigel Lee, Tim Donovan , Jayesh Dhanani , Jason Roberts	The FUN Study: Nebulised fentanyl for labour pain – pharmacokinetic and feasibility study	Involvement	12

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
Michelle Roets	Melinda Dean, Angela Tognolini, Craig Harris, Mahendra Singh , Peter Simpson, Andrew Dalley, David Sturgess, Vicki Swaine, Christine Woods, Rhys Morgan, Peter Steyn, Patrick Harris, Michael Thomas	How effective is intraoperative cell salvage (ICS) and a leuco-depletion filter (LDF) in removing cancer cells and bacteria during pelvic exenteration surgery? The C-I-ICS Study	Consultation	1
Michelle Roets	Melinda Dean, David Sturgess, Robert Flower, John-Paul Tung, Alexis Perros, Christine Woods, Andre van Zundert	GEN etic profiling: Outcome, Mechanism and Immunity, compare intraoperative Cell Salvage and allogeneic blood transfusion	Involvement	
Victoria Eley	Severine Navarro, Elizabeth Martin, Gunter Hartel, Akwasi Amoako, Jeffrey Lipman, Jason Roberts, Leonie Callaway , Mimi Tang	ASCENT: Intravenous cefazolin vs placebo for pre-incision prophylaxis in very low risk women undergoing elective caesarean section: RCT Pilot Feasibility Study	Involvement	
Anthony Hade		Is jelly a solid or a clear liquid? A pilot study on the gastric emptying of fruit-flavoured gelatin dessert.	Involvement	
Victoria Eley	Anita Pelecanos, Sue Lawrence , Suzanne Bertrand, Alka Kothari, Doogie Whitcombe, Guy Godsall	ABS-Road Analysis of state-wide ABS data regarding obesity and anaesthesia technique	Involvement	
Victoria Eley	Okano S, Sue Lawrence, Suzanne Bertrand, Alka Kothari, Doogie Whitcombe, Guy Godsall	Post-Cesarean analgesia –multicenter retrospective analysis comparing practices in Queensland, Australia.	Not applicable	
Victoria Eley	Nathan Peters, Adrian Chin, Christine Woods , Associate Professor Ban Leong Sng	Automated spinal landmark identification with ultrasound scanning in patients with BMI >35kg/m2	Involvement	
Angela Tognolini	Andrew Souness, Dwane Jackson, Kerstin Wyssusek , David Taylor, Craig Harris, Rachel Esler, Nicholas Black	Near-infrared spectroscopy (NIRS) monitoring for early detection of Lower limb ischaemia in pelvic exenteration surgery	Involvement	
Julie Lee	Jayesh Dhanani, Victoria Eley, Jason Roberts , Steven Wallis, Mohammed Abdul-Aziz	Comparative pharmacokinetics of Involvement nebulised and intravenous ketamine and dexmedetomidine in ventilated patients	Involvement	
Michelle Roets	Luisa Postlethwaite	Scientia: Improving the Immune Response with Intraoperative Cell Salvage	Involvement	

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
Paul Myles	Wendy Brown, Mark Shulman, Trisha Peel, Robert Medcalf, Jessica Kasza, Sophie Wallace, Julie Lee	TRIGS: Tranexamic acid to Reduce Infection after Gastrointestinal Surgery	Involvement	21
Kate Leslie	David Story, Jai Darvall, Philip Peyton, Paul Myles, Tomás Corcoran, Timothy Short, Matthew Chan, Ben Olesnicky, Julie Lee	SNaPP Study: Sugammadex, Neostigmine and Postoperative Pulmonary Complications	Involvement	41
Tomás Corcoran	Andrew Toner, Gillian Ormond, Natalie Hird, Julie Lee	LOLIPOP Trial: Long-term Outcomes of Lidocaine Infusions for Post-Operative Pain	Involvement	1
Judy Munday	Jed Duff , Fiona Wood, David Sturgess , Kerstin Wyssusek , Elizabeth Strathdee , Samantha Keogh, Nicholas Ralph, Lee Jones, Katharina Merollini, Ian Graham, Christine Woods	The GLOW Trial: Implementing Guidelines for hypothermia prevention With Local adaptation to keep periOperative patients Warm	Involvement	2102
Claire Rickard	Nathan Peters , Joel Thomas , Adam Trebilco, Christine Woods , Christine Brown, Pauline Calleja, Claire Rickard	Virtual supervision of novice Ultrasound guided peripheral intravenous cannulation practitioners (USGPiVC) in rural hospitals. Enhancing transition into the workplace.	Involvement	9
Bernhard Riedel	Victoria Eley , David Story, Alexander Heriot, Gavin Wright, Daniel Sessler, Donal Buggy, Jonathan Hiller, Julia Dubowitz	Volatile Anaesthesia & Perioperative Outcomes Related to Cancer – Randomised Controlled Trial, 2X2 factorial design for sevoflurane / propofol and for intravenous lidocaine infusion / no lidocaine infusion - Vapor-C	Involvement	
Sebastian Furness	Paul Gray , Victoria Eley	Leveraging crosstalk to mitigate opioid induced ventilatory impairment.	Not Applicable	
Lauren Kearney	Victoria Eley , Deanne August, Christopher Lehner, Bec Jenkinson, Amanda Ullman Nicole Marsh , Rachel Nugent, Nigel Lee, Susan de Jersey John Thompson, Jean Spin	FLUME: Fluid in Labour EnsUring Maternal Euvolemia	Consultation	
Dannielle Crimmins	Annabelle Harrocks	APPRAISE Study: Anaphylaxis and Perioperative Hypersensitivity Pilot Registry - Assessment of Incidence, Safety and Economics; Sub-studies PRELUDE – Pilot registry evaluating Large-scale Understanding of Drug Events and PRICE – Perioperative Reactions: In-depth Cost Evaluation	Consultation	

Research Publications

Authors

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Andre van Zundert	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1836-6831
Victoria Eley	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6715-9193
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Sue Lawrence	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9798-631X
Michelle Roets	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0882-9636

Publications in 2025

Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

White L, Kerr M, **Thang C**, Pawa A. Motor-sparing regional anaesthesia for total knee arthroplasty: a narrative and systematic literature review. *Br J Anaesth*. 2025;134(2):510-522. doi: 10.1016/j.bja.2024.10.041. Epub 2025. PMID: 39753403.

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Hodge AT, **Tognolini AR**, Martin EK, **Eley VA**. A cost analysis of the anaesthetic management of patients with confirmed or suspected coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in a tertiary referral hospital in Queensland, Australia. *Anaesth Intensive Care*. 2025;53(1):6-14. doi: 10.1177/0310057X241272108. Epub 2025. PMID: 39757841.

Gurunathan U, Medcalf RL, Chiang L, Liu Z, Liu X, Keragala CB, Hernandez-Mitre MP, Brady P, Wallis SC, **Roberts JA**, Mullany D, Nandurkar H, **Eley V**, Parker SL. A pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic analysis of intravenous tranexamic acid in adult patients undergoing elective total hip arthroplasty (ORACLE). *Br J Anaesth*. 2025. DOI: 10.1016/j.bja.2024.12.004

Gómez-Ríos MA, **Van Zundert AAJ**, Fernández-Vaquero MA. The relentless pursuit of excellence in airway management. *Revista Española de Anestesiología y Reanimación (English Edition)* 2025;72(4):501-733.

L. Kearney, B. Jenkinson, C. Lehner, et al., "Authentic Consumer–Clinician Co-Design of a Labour and Childbirth Intervention to Optimise Maternal Hydration in Labour: Reaching Consensus to Enhance Rigour," *Health Expectations* 28. 2025:1–7, <https://doi.org/10.1111/hex.70438>

Eley VA, Pelecanos A, **Lawrence S**, Bertrand S, Kothari, A, Whitcombe D, Godsall MG. Cesarean Delivery in Queensland, Australia—A Retrospective Study of Factors Associated with Primary and Secondary General Anesthesia. *Acta Anaesthesiologica Scandinavica*. 2025;69:9 <https://doi.org/10.1111/aas.70093>

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Patel R, O'Carroll J, Kua J, Sultan P, Carvalho B, Sharawi N, **Eley VA**, O'Brien P, Stanford S, Hill S, Craig R, Lucas N, Hou B, Moonesinghe R. Snapshot of Obstetric National Audit and Research Project (SONAR1): a protocol for an international observational cohort study *BMJ Open*. 2025;15:e103525. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2025-103525

Charles EA, Carter H, Stanford S, Blake L, **Eley VA**, Carvalho B, Sultan P, Kua J, O'Carroll J. Intraoperative Pain during cesarean Delivery under Neuraxial Anesthesia: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. *Anesthesiology*. 2025;25143(1):156-167. | DOI: 10.1097/ALN.0000000000005486

Willims R, Sullivan H, Ross L, Guthrie T, Wolski P, Craven A-M, Lehner C, Callaway L, **Eley V**, MacLaughlin HL, Jersey, SDE. Pregnancy After Bariatric Surgery: A Comparison of Antenatal Care Practices With the 2019 International Consensus Recommendations in Queensland, Australia. *Aust N Z J Obstet Gynaecol*. 2025;65:838-847. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajo.70041>

Zacher R, Cooper I, Pietzsch, Webb L, Pelecanos A, **Eley VA**. Experiences of Australian anaesthetists and anaesthetic trainees of working whilst pregnant: results of a national survey. *Anaesthesia and Intensive Care* 2025;53:103-115. doi.org/10.1177/0310057X241263116

Cooper IL, Pietzsch AF, Zacher R, Webb L, Pelecanos A, **Eley VA**. Returning to work following parental leave: the experiences of Australian anaesthetists. *Anaesthesia and Intensive Care*. 2025;53(3):181-189. doi:[10.1177/0310057X241265726](https://doi.org/10.1177/0310057X241265726)

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Van Zundert AA, Queen J, Chiu J, Keir BJ. Examining Critical Task Performance in Blue and Green Ambient Lighting Environments in Modern Interventional Suites: An Anesthetic Care Perspective. *Anesth Analg*. 2026; 1;142(1):45-55. doi: 10.1213/ANE.0000000000007696. Epub 2025. PMID: 40853238. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40853238/>

van Zundert AAJ, Cylinder DM, van Swinderen B. Presynaptic Neurotransmission: A Bottleneck to Recovery From General Anesthesia? *Anesth Analg*. 2026;142(1):56-63. doi: 10.1213/ANE.0000000000007695. Epub 2025. PMID: 40779426. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40779426/>

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Books (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Hadzic A, Vandeputte K, **van Zundert A** et al. Anesthesiology Manual Handbook. NYSORA Continuing Medical Education, New York, 2025.

Glorigijevic S, Moka E, Rawal A, Vadalouca A, **van Zundert A**. The history of The European Society of Regional Anaesthesia. Crossing Boundaries, Transformational Care. ESRA, 2025. chrome-extension://efaidnbmninnibpcjpcglclefindmkaj/https://esraeurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/ESRA-History-book-online.pdf

Book Chapters (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

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Barach P, **van Zundert AAJ**. How to become a successful researcher. Ch 7.1 - WHO Guidance on Research Methods for Health EDRM. 2025.

Meeusen VM, **van Zundert AAJ**. Chapter 14 - Operating Theatre Management in Australia. In: Professor Jaideep Pandit (Ed.) Practical Operating Theatre Management: Measuring and Improving Performance and Patient Experience, 2nd Ed 2025.

Keynote or Plenary Lectures given in 2025

Date	Title
August 2025, Medellin, Colombia, World Congress of Obstetric Anaesthesia	Pain during caesarean delivery. Invited speaker: Victoria Eley .
August 2025, Medellin, Columbia World Congress of Obstetric Anaesthesia	Simulation in obstetric anaesthesia – Making it work for you. Invited speaker: Victoria Eley
August 2025, Lugano, Switzerland, Online Anaesthesia Meeting	Obesity and Cesarean Section. Invited speaker: Victoria Eley
4 May 2025, Cairns, Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists Annual Scientific Meeting	Airway Special Interest Group: Airway management – Perfecting the familiar. Chairs: Linda Beckmann and Rosalyn Boyd
10 August 2025, Adelaide, Clinical Trials Network Workshop	New proposals. Session Chair: Victoria Eley
June 2025, Society of Obstetric Medicine Australia and New Zealand Online Meeting	Update Course in Obstetric Medicine Education Program: Obstetric Anaesthesia and Analgesia. Invited Speaker: Victoria Eley
6 May 2025, Cairns, Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists Annual Scientific Meeting	An anatomical review to help you find the lumbar epidural space: PLACE IT results. Invited Speaker: Sue Lawrence
4 October 2025, Canberra, Australian Society of Anaesthetists National Scientific Congress	Pain during Cesarean delivery under neuraxial anaesthesia. Invited Speaker: Victoria Eley
24 April 2025, Munich, Germany, Network for Advancement of Patient Blood Management, Haemostasis and Thrombosis (NATA)	Is ICS worth the cost? In Session - Cell Salvage: The Past, Present, and Game-Changing Future. Michelle Roets

Ear Nose and Throat Department

Research highlights

Throughout 2025, the Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) Research Team continued to expand its strong research output, marked by the completion and publication of an in-house pilot study evaluating the effectiveness of Botulinum Toxin Type A delivered as a nasal spray for patients with rhinitis. Led by Principal Investigator Dr Abigail Walker, this study demonstrated promising results for this potentially novel and practice-changing treatment approach. The findings were published in the *International Forum of Allergy and Rhinology* and presented at the Australian Society of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery (ASOHNS) Annual Scientific Meeting in March 2025.

In parallel with the initiation of new research projects, the team progressed a substantial portfolio of ongoing studies across the subspecialties of Skull Base, Head and Neck, and Rhinology. An impressive number of department-led investigator-initiated studies were conducted alongside collaborative projects with the Herston Biofabrication Institute, The University of Queensland, and Griffith University, reflecting the team's significant contribution to advancing research within the field of ENT.

Within Head and Neck surgery, a particular research focus on salivary diagnostic techniques has driven continued collaborative work with the Salivary Diagnostics and Liquid Biopsy Laboratory at Griffith University. These projects aim to establish and validate novel diagnostic methodologies, with the potential to improve early detection and clinical outcomes for patients with Head and Neck cancer.

The Skull Base research group has maintained active collaborations with the Herston Imaging Research Facility and The University of Queensland Centre for Advanced Imaging, investigating the utility of high-resolution imaging in skull base disease processes. This work builds on previous research outputs and supports ongoing efforts to improve outcomes for patients with skull base malignancies.

Alongside the growth in investigator-led research within the Rhinology subspecialty, the ENT Research Team remains actively involved in multiple commercially sponsored clinical trials. The team continues to be highly sought after for industry-led studies, maintaining an outstanding reputation for excellence in trial delivery and research collaboration.

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 Ryan Sommerville	ENT	Skull Base Patient Experience Initiative	RBWH Foundation	\$39,175	3 2023-2025
Dr Ryan Sommerville	ENT	High Resolution Imaging for Head and Neck and Skull Base	Garnett Passe and Rodney Williams Foundation	\$362,896	3 2023-2025
Dr Abigail Walker	ENT	A pilot study to evaluate the effectiveness of intranasal Botulinum Toxin Type A spray for patients with rhinitis	Department of Health	\$2,435	1 2025
Dr Sarju Vasani	ENT	Oral Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Prevalence in the High-Risk Demographic	RBWH Foundation	\$119,676	3 2024-2026

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 Ryan Sommerville, Dr Craig Winter	Dr Wallace Walker, Dr Hamish Alexander, Dr Abigail Walker, Dr Timothy Sullivan, Dr Jennifer Gillespie, Dr Stephanie Yau	The use of ultra high-resolution MRI for the assessment of cranial neuropathies in base of skull tumours		8
Dr Ryan Sommerville	Dr Abigail Walker, Dr Stephanie Yau, Dr Danilo Carluccio, Dr Ankit Patel, Rachel Chambers	Development of 3D printed hyper-realistic trans-sphenoidal training models		NA
Associate Professor Sarju Vasani, Professor Lizbeth Kenny, Associate Professor Chamindie Punyadeera	Dr Martin Batsone, Dr Omar Breik, Dr Brett Hughes, Dr Zhen Liu, Dr Akila Wijeyesekera, Dr Linda Stewart, Dr Joshua Liaw	A Novel Assay for Early Detection of Minimal Residual Disease in Head and Neck Cancer Patients		21
Associate Professor Sarju Vasani, Dr Akila Wijesekera, Associate Professor Chamindie Punyadeera	Associate Professor Lizbeth Kenny, Mrs Fiona Stack, Dr Chameera Ekanayake Weeramange	Oral Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Prevalence in the High-Risk Demographic		17
Dr Abigail Walker	Dr James Earnshaw, Dr James Bates, Kathryn Girling	A pilot study to evaluate the effectiveness of intranasal Botulinum Toxin Type A spray for patients with rhinitis		15

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 Ryan Sommerville, Dr Markus Barth (University of Queensland)	Dr Sarju Vasani, Dr Abigail Walker, Dr Stephanie Yau, Dr Craig Winter, Dr Jennifer Gillespie, Dr Hamish Alexander, Dr Jason Papacostas, Aiman Al Najjar, Saskia Bolman, Ewald Weber	Evaluating the utility of high-resolution MRI in defining cranial nerves in the context of base of skull lesions	NA	1
Professor Anders Cervin (University of Queensland)	Dr Abigail Walker, Dr James Bates, Dr Joshua Liaw, Dr Richard Gan, Kathryn Girling, Julia Donnan-Groth, Dr Dianne Pennisi	Testing a nasal microbiota transplant therapy in chronic rhinosinusitis patients without nasal polyps	NA	21

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 Abigail Walker	Dr James Bates, Kathryn Girling,	A Phase 2b, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Multicenter Study of the Efficacy and Safety of Brensocatib in Participants with Chronic Rhinosinusitis Without Nasal Polyps	N/A	2
Dr Abigail Walker	Dr James Bates, Kathryn Girling,	OT-007B: The effect of intra-sinus application of Betamethasone Dipropionate nasal cream on patients with Chronic Rhinosinusitis post functional endoscopic sinus surgery (FESS)	N/A	13
Dr Abigail Walker	Dr James Bates, Kathryn Girling,	EFC18419: A Phase 3 study to assess the efficacy, safety, and tolerability of itepekimab (anti-IL-33 mAb) in participants with inadequately-controlled chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyps	N/A	1

Research Publications

Authors

Investigator	ORCID ID
Dr Ryan Sommerville	https://orcid.org/0009-0007-7594-8655
Dr Sarju Vasani	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1471-9692
Dr Abigail Walker	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6581-2788
Dr James Bates	https://orcid.org/0009-0003-2624-5284

Publications in 2025

Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

J. Bates, A. Walker, J. Liaw, K. Girling, J Earnshaw, A Banks, S Gannon. "A Phase 1 Research Trial to Evaluate the Safety and Effectiveness of Intranasal Botulinum Toxin Type A Spray for Patients With Rhinitis." *International Forum of Allergy & Rhinology* (2025): . <https://doi.org/10.1002/alr.70058>

Keynote or Plenary Lectures given in 2025

Date	Title
28.03.2025	A Phase 1 Research Trial to Evaluate the Effectiveness of Intranasal Botulinum Toxin Type A Spray for Patients with Rhinitis Presented at ASOHS by Dr James Bates

General Surgery Unit 1: Breast and Endocrine Surgery

Research highlights

Following the successful acquisition of Queensland Technology Future Fund (QTFF) funding for Radiofrequency Ablation, a minimally invasive therapy for thyroid nodules, 2025 was focused on undertaking preparations to introduce this innovative treatment to eligible patient. This treatment will further support strong collaborations with our colleagues in endocrinology managing thyroid disease non surgically without compromising outcomes.

With the successful completion of the clinical trial evaluating medical-grade polycaprolactone (PCL) breast scaffold implantation in selected patients, presents the unique opportunity for our breast surgical unit to lead a nation-wide multi-site clinical trial.

The finalisation of the project analysing the implementation of intraoperative radiotherapy (IORT) for early breast cancer, has shown the impact of the treatment on patient satisfaction. The multidisciplinary treatment team are in the process of establishing an IORT registry to capture all cases.

The importance of patient experience in the surgical treatment of breast cancer has been recognised and has led the team to assess patient anxiety following a breast cancer diagnosis with the ultimate aim in enhancing understanding of psychosocial needs and guide supportive care initiatives.

Our partnership with the Comprehensive Breast Cancer Institute in support of multidisciplinary research and clinical innovation across breast cancer care and our strengthened collaboration with BreastScreen Queensland involved in early detection and service integration has placed our surgical team in an exceptional position to advance care for all patients with breast cancer.

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
Owen Ung	Michael Wagels, Clement Wong	Clinical trial evaluating medical-grade polycaprolactone-PCL breast scaffold implantation with autologous fat grafting for breast implant revision and congenital defect correction surgery	Involvement	19
Diana Tam	Kristen Elstner, Robyn Cheuk, Owen Ung, Clement Wong, Liz Kenny, Michelle Grogan, Kowsi Murugappan, Charles Lin, Sunil Lakhani	Intraoperative radiotherapy (IORT) for early breast cancer- a pilot evaluation of implementation, feasibility, safety and financial analysis	Involvement	20
Elizabeth Wootton	David Pattison, Roslyn Francis, Muhammed Amjadeen, Louise Campbell, Don McLeod, Clement Wong , Anita Pelecanos, Louisa Collins	PARA-PET - a randomised diagnostic imaging trial of fluorocholine PET/CT vs conventional imaging in primary hyperparathyroidism	N/A	0
Kowsi Murugappan	Luyo Kuo, Keely Lynch, Bartholomew McKay	Importance of Axillary Lymph Node Dissection: 13-year Retrospective Analysis of a Tertiary Breast Surgical Unit	N/A	N/A
Diana Tam	Isobel Hymer , Nick Ormiston-Smith, Jane Brazier, Paul Vardon,	Current trends in incidence and histopathological upgrade rates of Ductal Carcinoma in Situ and Atypical Ductal Hyperplasia in Queensland	N/A	N/A

RBWH Department Quality Improvement Activity

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff in bold)	Project Title
Diana Tam	Ho Nam Choi	MRI Evaluation and Correlation with Histology in Breast Cancer: a Retrospective Audit
Diana Tam	Madeline Kelly, Marli Williams	A retrospective audit on the outcomes of younger breast cancer in Brisbane, Queensland
Kowsi Murugappan	Jenyu Shaw	Determining the Accuracy of 18FDG-PET/CT in Assessing Axillary Disease in Lymph Node Positive Breast Cancer Patients Treated with Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy

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
Diana Tam	Isobel Hymer, Paul Vardon, Nick Ormiston-Smith, Jane Brazier, Aleksandra Edmundson	Current trends in incidence and histopathological upgrade rates of Ductal Carcinoma in Situ and Atypical Ductal Hyperplasia in Queensland	N/A	N/A
Diana Tam	Bence Kiska, Emma Lumsden, Aleksandra Edmundson , Nick Ormiston-Smith, Jane Brazier	Papillary lesions of the breast- upgrade rates and imaging characteristics predictive of an occult malignancy	N/A	N/A
Adam Orfi	Caroline Baker, Kallyani Ponniah, Andrew Spillane, Melanie Walker, Sanjay Warriar, Clement Wong, Aroosha Safari	The ANZ Targeted Axillary Dissection Registry	Involvement	6

Research Publications

Authors

Investigator	ORCID ID
Owen Ung	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5308-5605
Clement Wong	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2945-8459
Kowsalya (Kowsi) Murugappan	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5639-9338
Diana Tam	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7671-7011

Publications in 2025

Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Tian, Shuya, Wille, Marie-Luise, Suresh, Sinduja, Finze, Ronja, Cheng, Mathew, Cheers, Giles Michael, Ung, Owen, Wagels, Michael and Huttmacher, Dietmar W. Biomechanical Evaluation of Gyroid Scaffolds with Varying 3-D Printing Parameters. 2025 *IFMBE Proceedings*. Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland

Matthew Cheng, Gwenda Chapman, Michael Wagels, **Owen Ung**. Protocol for single-arm clinical trial evaluating medical grade polycaprolactone breast scaffold implantation with autologous fat grafting for breast implant revision and congenital defect correction surgery. 2025, *BMJ Open* 15(4):e088151

Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Pham P, **Kakala B**, Love A, Sudarsan, A, **Wong, C**. A rare case of a composite phaeochromocytoma-ganglioneuroma in Australia, April 2025. Journal of Surgical Case Reports, Vol. 2025, Issue 4.

General Surgery Unit 2: Hepatobiliary Surgery

Research highlights

The Hepatobiliary (HPB) Surgery Unit advanced several strategic initiatives, including the publication of a study on a novel PET tracer, fibroblast activation protein inhibitor (FAPI), for staging early pancreatic cancer.

The team contributed to a multi-site clinical trial aimed at strengthening guideline-based classification of pancreatic cancer respectability.

During the Visiting Professor week, the HPB Surgery Unit hosted Professor Pablo E. Serrano from McMaster University, Canada, who delivered a keynote lecture on clinical trials in surgical oncology to the general surgery faculty and staff.

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
Charles Pilgrim (Monash) et.al, David Cavallucci	General Surgery /HPB unit	SCANPatient: Synoptic reporting of CT scans assessing cancer of the pancreas	MRFF	\$297,301	5 yrs, 2022-2027
Vicki Whitehall, David Cavallucci , David Clark , Quan Nguyen, Sarah Hayes, Jeff Cuff, Cheri Ostroff, Jennifer Borowsky, Mark Bettington, Catharine Bond	General Surgery HPB unit and Colorectal unit	Personalising Treatment Strategies to Improve Outcomes for Colorectal Cancer	MRFF	\$2,999,022	2024-2030

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
Nicholas O'Rourke	David Brough, David Cavallucci, Richard Bryant,	The RBWH liver database – establishing and maintaining textbook outcomes in liver surgery.	NA	NA
Emily Olive	Nicholas O'Rourke, Richard Bryant	New directions in distal pancreatectomy and splenectomy; a multi-centre Five-year review of practice in Queensland.	NA	NA

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
Charles Pilgrim	David Cavallucci John Zalcberg Liane Ioannou, Jessica Kasza, Samantha Ellis	SCANPatient: Synoptic reporting of CT scans assessing cancer of the pancreas		

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
Vicki Whitehall	David Clark, Matthew Burge, David Cavallucci, Kelly Olsen	The Development of Personalised Medicine Strategies for Colorectal Cancer - OPTIC Organoids to Predict Therapy response In Colorectal liver metastases	N/A	10

Research Publications

Authors

Investigator	ORCID ID
David Cavallucci	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2112-6465
Nicholas O'Rourke	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0744-2816

Publications in 2025

Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Labib PL, McKay SC, Perrodin SF, Bolm L, Mownah OA, Bellotti R, McClements J, Sultana A, Skipworth JR, Balakrishnan A, Durán M, Moris D, Milburn JA, Kurtoğlu GK, Carino ND, Domínguez-Rosado I, Pandanaboyana S, Ghotbi J, Marchegiani G, Athwal TS, Stättner S, Karavias DD, Al-Sarireh B, Morris PD, Connor S, Halimi A, Leonhardt CS, Hodgson R, Samra JS, Mittal A, Fisher OM, Lim CS, Banting SW, Koea J, Yoshino O, Silva MA, Bhogal RH, Croagh D, **Cavallucci DJ**, Loveday BP, Dunne DF, Aroori S, Davidson BR, Roberts KJ; PVR audit collaborators. Anticoagulation Practice and Risk of Portal Vein Thrombosis Following Pancreaticoduodenectomy or Total Pancreatectomy with Venous Resection: An International Multicentre Cohort Study. 2025 Ann Surg. 2025 Sep 25. doi: 10.1097/SLA.0000000000006954.

McGahan W, Chadwick A, Lindsay K, Gulhane B, Latter MJ, O'Rourke T, Thomas PA, **Cavallucci D.** 68Ga-FAPI PET/CT Prevents Futile Surgery and Demonstrates Tumor Biology in Patients with Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma. 2025. J Nucl Med. 2025 Dec 3;66(12):1903-1907. doi: 10.2967/jnumed.125.270510

Nagaratnam P, Avery A, Fanning S, Sim S, Khan S, **O'Rourke N.** Successful Management of an Abdominal Fistularising Lymphoma Without Surgery. 2025. ANZ J Surg. 2025 Dec 23. doi: 10.1111/ans.70450

Palamuthusingam D, Hawley CM, Pascoe EM, Johnson DW, Sivalingam P, Wood ST, **Palamuthusingam P,** Jose MD, Fahim M. Operative and nonoperative management of acute cholecystitis in patients on chronic kidney replacement therapy. 2025. J Hepatobiliary Pancreat Sci. 2025 Jun;32(6):465-475. doi: 10.1002/jhbp.12133

Gillman R, Wankell M, Sun EJ, Ben David M, Karamatic R, Palamuthusingam P, Field MA, Schmitz U, Hebbard L. Transcriptomic Characterization of North Queensland Hepatocellular Carcinoma. 2025. Oncology. 2025 Dec 22:1-14. doi: 10.1159/000549897

David Brough, Dominique Dahlenburg, Adam McNamara, Amirah Etchegaray, **Emily Olive, David Cavallucci, Richard Bryant, Samuel Davis, Samuel Foong, Barbara Leggett, Nicholas O'Rourke.** Ruptured Hepatocellular Carcinoma Secondary to Undiagnosed Hepatitis B in a Young Male Papua New Guinean Patient. 2025. Vol. 3 (1) Case Reports

General Surgery Unit 3: Colorectal Surgery

Research highlights

In 2025, there are over 60 active concurrent research projects in the Colorectal Research Unit. These offer an introduction to research methodology and enhancement of RBWH aspirational surgeons' applications for higher training.

Highlights for 2025 include the ongoing recruitment and support of patients involved in the Modified Kono S anastomosis study. A number of patients have now been enrolled in the study beyond the key outcome measure of recurrence at 6 months.

The unit also continues to support the recruitment of patients to QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute organoid studies.

Professor David Clark is the chair of the colorectal cancer subcommittee of the Cancer Alliance Queensland and this has facilitated extensive population based research through extraordinary matched datasets of over 52,000 colorectal cancer patients. The goal of this entity is to improve surgical outcomes through analysis of datasets and comparison with similar centres in a non-punitive approach to permit surgical unit reflection when outcomes are outside expected parameters.

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
David Clark	Colorectal Research Unit	A multicentre randomised controlled trial of the modified Kono S anastomosis versus the stapled side to side anastomosis after ileocolic resection for Crohn's disease	CSSANZ	\$20,000	annual

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
Jayson Moloney	David Clark, Aleksandra Edmundson	Long term functional outcomes after taTME in Australia and New Zealand	Involvement	
David Clark	Aarthi Sritharan	A retrospective analysis of number of lymph nodes evaluated in patients with colorectal cancer and whether there is a benefit in increasing the number of lymph nodes for prognostication	N/A	N/A
Andrew Stevenson	Kar Yin Fok, Michael Lonne	Long term outcomes after laparoscopic and robotic ventral rectopexy for rectal prolapse using biologic graft prosthesis	N/A	N/A
David Clark	Elisa Tran, Angel Hayes, Amy Cao	Identifying predictors of reduced length of stay in minimally invasive colectomy	N/A	N/A
David Clark	Andrew Zammit	Evaluating fistula outcomes after seton removal in patients with perianal Crohn's disease: UNFASTEN-PCD	N/A	0
David Clark	Andrew Zammit	Collaborative snapshot audit of the management of perianal sepsis in Australian and New Zealand	N/A	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
Vicki Whitehall	David Clark , Matthew Burge, Catherine Bond, Kelly Olsen	The Development of Personalised Medicine Strategies for Colorectal Cancer	Involvement	52
Peter Gillies	David Clark, Jason Brown, Stuart Pegg	Conditional reprogramming of colorectal cancer cells	Involvement	4
Vicki Whitehall	David Clark , Kelly Olsen	Predicting ChemoRadiotherapy Sensitivity in Rectal Cancer Organoids (PRoSecCO)	Involvement	11
Nicholas Lyon	John Hooper, Andrew Riddell, Simon Puttick, David Clark	The search for new theranostic targets for colorectal cancer		
Alexander Heriot	David Clark , Chris Gillespie, Mikhail Mikhail, Raphael Vergese, Mark Doudle	Bi-National Colorectal Cancer Audit (BCCA)	N/A	n/a
Kate Wilson	Jayson Moloney	National Assessment of Management of LARS post-colorectal cancer surgery	N/A	N?A
Daniel Steffens	David Clark, Imran Aumeerally	PRIORITY-CONNECT 2	Involvement	0
Vicki Whitehall	David Clark ,	OPTIC Trial: Organoids to Predict Therapy response In Colorectal cancer liver metastases	Involvement	23

Research Publications

Authors

Investigator	ORCID ID
Andrew Stevenson	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5639-3526
David Clark	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2065-3012
Andrew Warwick	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3937-5638
Craig Harris	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9581-9750
Amy Cao	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9339-6355
Imran Aumeerally	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0938-7016
Jayson Maloney	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4727-639X

Publications in 2025

Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Lonne MLR, Cao AMY, Jenkin A, Convie LJ, Stevenson GE, Moloney JM, Stevenson ARL. Long-term Outcomes After Minimally Invasive Ventral Rectopexy for Rectal Prolapse Using Biological Graft Prosthesis: A 15-Year Retrospective Cohort Study Dis Colon Rectum. 2025 May 1;68(5):608-615.

doi: 10.1097/DCR.0000000000003661. Epub 2025 Jan 30. PMID: 39882785

Al-Saig A, Nandakumar L, **Theodore J, Moloney J.**

First Presentation of Endometriosis: A Case of Acute Large Bowel Obstruction.

Cureus. 2025 Aug 30;17(8):e91306. doi: 10.7759/cureus.91306. eCollection 2025 Aug. PMID: 41030730

Moloney J, Lau S, Jeffery F, Zammit A, Eglinton T, Hayes J, Heriot A, Warriar S, Guest G, Merri A, Bell S, Gebiski V, Stevenson A, Clark D. Long Term Functional Outcomes After Transabdominal Versus Transanal Total Mesorectal Excision: A Matched Comparative Study. ANZ J Surg. 2025 Nov 21. doi: 10.1111/ans.70391. Online ahead of print. PMID: 41271595

Zheng, S., **A. Edmundson, and D.A. Clark,** Current approaches to the surgical management of Crohn's disease in Australia and New Zealand. International Journal of Colorectal Disease, 2025. 40(1): p. 4.

Zammit, A.P., Aksoy, Y.A., Brown, I., Hooper, J.D., **Clark, D.A., Fuchs, T.L., Riddell, A.D.** and Gill, A.J. (2025), Development of a novel malignant colorectal polyp prognostic nomogram. ANZ Journal of Surgery. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ans.19384>

Cao, A.M.Y., M.L.R. Lonne, and **D.A. Clark,** Long-term survival outcomes in young-onset colorectal cancer: A population-based cohort study. Colorectal Disease, 2025. 27(2): p. e70007.

Clark DA, Dobeli K, Allen D, McWhinney B, Lonne M, **Edmundson A.** Drain fluid iodine as a biomarker of anastomotic leak after low anterior resection in patients undergoing Gastrografin rectal tube flushes and omission of a diverting ileostomy: The GUSH study. Colorectal Dis. 2025; 27:e70031. <https://doi.org/10.1111/codi.70031>

Fok KY, Harris C, Clark DA Indocyanine Green uses in colorectal surgery – a narrative review. Ann Laparosc Endosc Surg 2025;10:25.

Clark DA, Solomon M Why the rise of predatory journals: view of the prey accepted ANZ J Surg 2025

Heuvelings, Danique, **et al.** International Consensus on Reporting Anastomotic Leaks After Colorectal Cancer Surgery: The CoReAL Reporting Framework. Diseases of the Colon & Rectum, vol. Publish Ahead of Print, May 07, 2025, doi: 10.1097/DCR.0000000000003790.

Valizadehzare S, Keogh C, Edmundson A, Clark DA. Extremes of Age Versus Middle Decades of Life: A Population-Based Analysis of Colorectal Cancer Survival in Queensland, Australia. ANZ J Surg. 2025 Dec;95(12):2529-2536. doi: 10.1111/ans.70382. Epub 2025 Nov 10. PMID: 41211806

Collin H, Huang B, Siriwardana A, **Harris C, Stevenson A,** Navaratnam A, Esler R, Roberts MJ. Simultaneous robotic-assisted prostatectomy and rectal resection: a systematic review. J Robot Surg. 2025 May 23;19(1):229. doi: 10.1007/s11701-025-02395-1. PMID: 40407946

Croft J, Farrow E, Coxon-Meggy AH, Gordon K, Corrigan N, Mather H, Stocken DD, Dale M, Chong HY, White J, Knight L, Meggy A, Lloydwin C, Tan B, Douglas A, Powell R, Hepburn J, Jayne D, Torkington J, **Warwick A,** Ng KS, Wilson K, Knowles CH, Quyn A, Cornish J. Pathway Of Low Anterior Resection syndrome (LARS) relief after Surgery (POLARis): protocol for an international, open-label, multi-arm, phase 3 randomised superiority trial within a cohort, with economic evaluation, process evaluation and qualitative sub-study, to explore the natural history of LARS and compare transanal irrigation and sacral neuromodulation to optimised conservative management for people with major LARS following a high or low anterior resection for colorectal cancer. BMJ Open. 2025 Feb 3;15(2):e092612. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2024-092612. PMID: 39900423

Wilson K, Solomon M, Cornish JA, Quyn A, Croft J, **Stevenson A, Warwick AM,** Ng KS

Low anterior resection syndrome - what's the urgency?

ANZ J Surg. 2025 Jul-Aug;95(7-8):1305-1307. doi: 10.1111/ans.70116. Epub 2025 Apr 3. PMID: 40178001

Keynote or Plenary Lectures given in 2025

Date	Title
Jan 2025	QASM meeting Madonna di Campiglio, Italy. "Evolution of surgical resection and research in Crohn's disease"
April 2025	Superstars of IBD Meeting Queenstown "Evolution of anastomotic configuration after ileocolic resection in Crohn's disease"
May 2025	RACS ASC Sydney "Hartmann's procedure in 2025"

General Surgery Unit 4: Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery

Research highlights

The Gastrointestinal Surgery Unit strengthened its position as one of the country's largest public bariatric services this year, supported by a newly developed, comprehensive bariatric surgery database that captures activity across RBWH and affiliated private sites. Together with datasets covering areas such as oesophageal cancer, this provides a strong platform for future research, safety monitoring, and quality improvement. Research and audit work continues across the department, focused on enhancing the statewide bariatric service for eligible patients, and improving outcomes in patients with oesophageal and gastric cancers in Queensland.

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
George Hopkins	Georgia Taylor, Leila Sheike, Khoula Al-Harrasi	Weight outcomes in primary bariatric patients complicated by severe intra-abdominal sepsis	N/A	N/A
George Hopkins	David Mitchell, Melanie Lauti, Daniell Cahn, Rayana Abou-Sleiman	Double-Tract Reversal of Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass	N/A	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
David Liu	Cuong Duong, Margaret Lee, Ahmad Aly, Tim Bright, David Watson, Geraldine Ooi, Enoch Wong, Sean Stevens, James Tan, Kevin Chan	Survival and Patterns of Care in the Era of FLOT-based Chemotherapy for Gastric and Gastroesophageal Adenocarcinoma (SPACE-FLOT) An international multicentre cohort study	N/A	N/A
Florin Grimpen	Chamindie Punyadeera, Jonathon Schubert , David Mitchell , Kimberly Ryan , Lucas Franca de Lima, Mark Appleyard	Biomarkers for Barrett's Oesophagus and neoplastic progression: Finding the proteomic spitting image	Involvement	13
Nicolas Anning	Peter Donovan , George Hopkins , Christine Staatz, Meng-Wong Taning, Brett McWhinney	Analysis of Antidepressant Serum Concentration Changes in Patients Undergoing Bariatric Surgery – A Pilot Study	N/A	0
Clare Peking	George Hopkins , Gerald Byrne, Matthew Seymour	The Role of Psychological Risk Factors on Outcomes for People Undergoing Bariatric Surgery for the Management of Type 2 Diabetes	N/A	N/A
Lynette De Groot	George Hopkins , Robin Hay , Collaboration with PAH	Vitamin B6 Supplementation after Bariatric Surgery- What is the Risk?	Consultation	N/A

Research Publications

Authors

Investigator	ORCID ID
David Mitchell	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2578-3729
Kevin Chan	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3370-5563
Ben Dodd	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2948-4390

Publications in 2025

Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Clyde DR, Adib R, Baig S, Bhasker AG, Byrne J, Cameron D, Catalain C, Clare K, de Beaux A, Drummond G, Fawal H, Fried M, Ghanem O, Graham Y, Goel R, **Hopkins G**, Husain F, Joyce B, Kermansaravi M, Kothari S, Kow L, Leite S, Madhok B, Mahon D, Miller K, Miras A, Moussa O, Neto MG, Nimeri A, O'Kane M, Parmar C, Peterli R, Poggi L, Saliminen P, Sarkar R, Shenfine J, Sogg S, Stenberg E, Suter M, Taha S, Tahrani A, Vilallonga R, Voon K, Welbourn R, Zerrweck C, Lamb P, Mahawar KK, Yang W, Robertson AGN. An international Delphi consensus on patient preparation for metabolic and bariatric surgery. 2025. Clin Obes. 2025 Apr;15(2):e12722. doi: 10.1111/cob.12722

Cross M, Paxton J, Wykes K, Chikani V, **Hopkins G**, Teppala S, Scuffham P; Clinical and Operational Reference Group. Improving equitable access to publicly funded bariatric surgery in Queensland, Australia. 2025. Aust Health Rev. Feb 6;49(1). doi: 10.1071/AH24080.

Clyde D, Grant C, Canales JAA, Adib R, Baig S, Bhasker AG, Cameron D, Catalin C, Clare K, de Beaux A, Drummond G, Fawal H, Fried M, Graham Y, Goel R, Goodpaster K, Hazebroek E, **Hopkins G**, Husain F, Jatana A, Joyce B, Kermansaravi M, Kothari S, Kow L, Leite S, Madhok B, Mahon D, Miller K, Miras A, Moize V, Neto MG, Nimeri A, O'Kane M, Peterli R, Poggi L, Ratcliffe D, Sakran N, Salminen P, Sarkar R, Shenfine J, Singhal R, Sogg S, Stenberg E, Suter M, Taha S, Tahrani A, Vilallonga R, Voon K, Welbourn R, Zerrweck C, Moussa O, Byrne J, Lamb P, Parmar C, Ghanem O, Mahawar KK, Robertson AGN, Yang W. Global Variations in Practices after Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery; the PARTNER Study. 2025. Obes Surg. 2025 Dec;35(12):5357-5378. doi: 10.1007/s11695-025-08356-9

Chadwick C, Hopkins G, Jarrott Z, Finch R, Dodd B, Chan K, Bradley K, Mitchell D. Weight Loss Outcomes Following Government-Funded Conversion Gastric Bypass: Roux-en-Y Versus One-Anastomosis-Does the Type of Bypass Matter? 2025 ANZ J Surg. 2025 Nov;95(11):2314-2321. doi: 10.1111/ans.7030

SPACE-FLOT Investigators, et al **Chan K.** Pathological response guides adjuvant 5-fluorouracil, leucovorin, oxaliplatin, and docetaxel (FLOT) chemotherapy in surgically resected gastro-oesophageal cancer (SPACE-FLOT): international cohort study. 2025. Br J Surg. 2025 Mar 28;112(4):znaf056. doi: 10.1093/bjs/znaf056.

General Surgery Unit 5: Acute Surgical Unit

Research highlights

The Acute Surgical Unit (ASU) is a consultant led multidisciplinary surgical service optimised to provide pre and post operative care for patients presenting to the Emergency and Trauma Centre at RBWH.

In 2025, in partnership with Metro South Health (Logan Hospital), the ASU is involved in a prospective project evaluating the implementation of a Surgical Rapid Assessment Unit (SRAU), an initiative designed to streamline the triage process for patients requiring emergency surgery.

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
Eugeni Roura	Jason Brown , Daniel Hwang, Olivia Wright, Michael Ryoo	Dietary patterns and molecular mechanisms associated with the pathogenicity of appendicitis in humans.	N/A	100
Carl Lisec	Michael Rudd (multisite project)	Australia and New Zealand Emergency Laparotomy Audit - Quality Improvement (ANZELA-QI)	N/A	N/A

Research Publications

Authors

Investigator	ORCID ID
Jason Brown	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8386-1118

Publications in 2025

Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Yoon J, Mott N, **Jenkins J**, **Rudd M**, **Papacostas J**, **Alexander H**, Management of intracardiac migrated ventriculoperitoneal shunts: illustrative case. 2025. J Neurosurg Case Lessons. 2025 Apr 21;9(16):CASE24871.

Lian T, **Wong A**, **Lumsden E**, **Chan J**. Severe prolonged gastrointestinal bleeding due to Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli. 2025 BMJ Case Rep. 2025 Oct 9;18(10):e265816.

Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Unit

Research highlights

The Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery department continued to have a busy research year in 2025.

Multiple ongoing grants, research projects and research higher degree students contributed to a range of publications, presentations at international meetings and awards.

There are ongoing national and international research collaborations with both clinicians, academics and industry partners.

The research focus of the department in coming years includes bioresorbable metals, facial prosthetics, head and neck cancer diagnostics and care, facial trauma, and reconstructive surgery

Research Awards and Achievements

Recipient (RBWH staff in bold)	Award	Event
Associate Professor Martin Batstone	The Australian's 2025 Research Magazine Leading Researcher in the Field of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	

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
Martin Batstone, Danilo Carluccio, Omar Breik , Cedryck Vaquette, Ali Gokhan Demir, Saso Ivanovski	Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	3D-Printed Bioresorbable Metal Mesh for Complex Alveolar Bone Defects	ITI	\$75,655	2 years 2024-2026
Martin Batstone, Danilo Carluccio, Omar Breik , Cedryck Vaquette, Jeffrey Venezuela, Matthew Dargusch	Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	Bioresorbable Metals as an Alternative to titanium for Mandible Fixation Plates	SORG	\$16,200	2 years 2024-2026

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
Omar Breik	Martin Batstone, Danilo Carluccio , Saso Ivanovski, Jeffrey Venezuela, Matthew Dargusch	Bioresorbable Metals as an Alternative to Titanium for Intraoperative Vessel Ligation (rat model)	N/A	not applicable
Martin Batstone	Danilo Carluccio, Maria Herrera Villalva	Development of a novel Magnetic retention system for facial and oral prosthetics	N/A	not applicable

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
Omar Breik	Martin Batstone, Danilo Carluccio , Abdalla Ali, Yahia Ali, Saso Ivanovski, Jeffrey Venezuela, Matthew Dargusch	Bioresorbable Metals as Alternative to Titanium for Fracture Fixation and Osteosynthesis	N/A	not applicable
Danilo Carluccio	Martin Batstone, Danilo Carluccio , Abdalla Ali, Yahia Ali, Saso Ivanovski, Jeffrey Venezuela, Ali Gokhan Demir	3D printed bioresorbable metal mesh for complex Alveolar Bone Defects (Sheep model)	N/A	not applicable
Danilo Carluccio	Nicholas Puls, Martin Batstone	3D Scanning Ocular Prosthesis for the Development of a Novel Digital Ocular Prosthetic Workflow	Involvement	0
Martin Batstone	Omar Breik, Danilo Carluccio	Virtual planning and manufacturing of soft tissue vestibuloplasty stents in head and neck reconstruction	N/A	not applicable
Beau Knight	Martin Batstone, Omar Breik, Danilo Carluccio	Adjunctive Soft Tissue Procedures on Implant Survival in Composite Free Flaps: a 15-year Single-Centre Retrospective Analysis	N/A	not applicable
Samuel Bereza	Martin Batstone, Omar Breik, Danilo Carluccio	Computer Assisted Surgery Versus Conventional Surgery in the Reconstruction of Maxillofacial Defects: A Comparison of Quality of Life, Functional and Aesthetic Outcomes	Involvement	XX
Martin Batstone Omar Breik		HEDAX randomised controlled trial of antibiotic prophylaxis in head and neck reconstruction	Consultation	102

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
Ryan Goh	Martin Batstone, Omar Breik, Danilo Carluccio , Cedryck Vaquette, Saso Ivanovski	Assessment of mandibular bone deposition over a subperiosteal implant: conversion of a subperiosteal implant into an endosteal implant – in vivo experiments	N/A	not applicable
Alex Murray-Douglas	Richard Harris, Martin Batstone, Danilo Carluccio, Craig Winter	3D printing versus traditional management for orbital reconstructive surgery: a retrospective cohort study and cost-effectiveness analysis	N/A	not applicable
Yun Phua	Martin Batstone, Danilo Carluccio, Hamish Alexander , Michael Wagels	Assessment of 3D-printed patient specific scaffolds for nasoalveolar augmentation in patients with cleft lip-related paranasal maxillary deformities.	N/A	not applicable
Sarj Vasani (ENT)	Omar Breik , Chamindie Punyadeera	Minimal Residual Disease in Head and neck cancer	Involvement	70
Sai Pabbati	Omar Breik, Danilo Carluccio , James Heaton, Mana Taripo, Sam Freeman, Nigel Johnson	The role of elective neck dissection in parotid acinic cell carcinomas: A scoping review	N/A	not applicable

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
Rohit Khanna	Lorenzo Li, Rachel Chalmers, Danilo Carluccio	Methods for evaluating the impact of 3D-printed craniofacial models on patient education: A literature review	N/A	not applicable

Research Publications

Authors

Investigator	ORCID ID
Martin Batstone	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9058-9976
Danilo Carluccio	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5041-5712
Elizabeth Zhixin Goh	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3091-6920
Omar Breik	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7996-9268

Publications in 2025

Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Hatcher A, Brierly G, Vaquette C, Staples R, **Breik O**, Ivanovski S, **Batstone MD**, **Carluccio D**. Bioresorbable TPMS polymeric scaffolds for bone regeneration. Bioprinting. 2025;50:e00433.

Choi S, Oh D, Ham H, **Carluccio D**, Burgess M, Bennell M, Mayze L, **Batstone M**, **Breik O**. Evaluation of a Cost-Effective Virtual Reality Training System in Oral Maxillofacial Surgery: A Pilot Study. Journal of Surgical Education. 2025;82(6):103505.

de Nys CM, Murphy AR, Wood J-L, Novak JI, **Carluccio D**, **Winter CD**, Allenby MC. Additive manufacturing of patient-specific intracranial aneurysm cell culture models. bioRxiv. 2025:2025.02.24.639980.

Goh R, Vaquette C, **Breik O**, Ivanovski S, **Batstone M**. Subperiosteal Implants: A Lost Art Worth Revisiting? Clin Implant Dent Relat Res. 2025;27(2):e70025.

Chen C, Taheri T, **Batstone M**, Johnson N. Immunohistochemical expression of Ki67, CD10, BRAF, and α-SMA tumour markers in ameloblastoma and odontogenic keratocyst. International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. 2025;54(11):1023-30.

Pang S, Brierly G, **Borgna S**, **Batstone M**, Wiesenfeld D, DeAngelis A, Subramaniam S, **Breik O**, Sim F. Tongue SCC in Young Adults Under 45: A Retrospective Analysis and Comparison with Traditional Older Patient Cohorts. International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. 2025;54:155.

Venchiarutti RL, Sharman AR, Donnelly C, Andrews N, **Batstone M**, Bhuta S, Gupta R, Jeans C, Lee J, Ooi EH, Schifter M, Sundaresan P, Tan ST, Whelan D, Yabe T, Zhou M, Palme CE, Clark JR. Multidisciplinary Clinical Quality Indicators for Head and Neck Cancer: A Modified Delphi Study in Australia. ANZ Journal of Surgery. 2025;n/a(n/a).

Liu T, Clark J, David M, Schache A, Bajwa MS, Low T-H, Gupta R, **Batstone MD**. The Impact of Stratified Surgical Margins on Survival Outcomes in Oral Cavity Squamous Cell Carcinoma: A Multicenter Analysis. Head & Neck. 2025;n/a(n/a).

Armstrong LTD, Beech NM, **Breik O**, **Batstone MD**. Utility of frozen section pathology in oral squamous cell carcinoma: a systematic review and meta-analysis. International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. 2026;55(1):1-9.

Jangholi A, Basnayake BWMTJ, **Breik O**, **Kenny L**, **Vasani S**, Dolcetti R, Punyadeera C. Potential clinical utility of small extracellular vesicles derived from head and neck tumours. VIEW. 2025;n/a(n/a):20250081.

Baghaie H, Shukla K, Stone J, **Breik O**, Munn Z. Prophylactic Tranexamic Acid Use in Orthognathic Surgery: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. Aesthetic Plastic Surgery. 2025;49(11):2932-46.

Tsai H, **Breik O**. Outcomes of Incidental Pulmonary Nodules Detected in Oral and Oropharyngeal Cancer Patients. International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. 2025;54:136-7.

Huang X, Zhang X, Weeramange CE, Leo P, **Hughes BGM**, Dolcetti R, Zeng B, Mazzieri R, Hartel G, Ladwa R, Taheri T, **Breik O**, **Kenny L**, **Vasani S**, Punyadeera C. Development of a circulating tumour cell culture model from head and neck squamous cell carcinoma. VIEW. 2025;6(6):20250085.

Damodaran S, Weeramange CE, **Kenny L**, **Vasani S**, **Hughes BGM**, **Breik O**, Punyadeera C. Circulating tumour cells and circulating tumour DNA in head and neck cancer: from molecular insights to clinical impact. Cancer and Metastasis Reviews. 2025;44(4):88.

Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Corvino D, **Batstone M**, Hughes BGM, Kempchen T, Ng SS, Salim N, Schneppenheim F, Rommel D, Kumar A, Pearson S, Madore J, Koufariotis LT, Teinheuer LM, Pathirana D, Thurley K, Holzel M, Borceherding N, Braun M, Bald T. Type I Interferon Drives a Cellular State Inert to TCR-Stimulation and Could Impede Effective T-Cell Differentiation in Cancer. Eur J Immunol. 2025 Jan;55(1):e202451371

Book Chapters (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Pincus J, Bobinskas AM, **Borgna SC**. 79 - Maxillofacial and upper-airway injuries. In: Martin D, Handy JM, Venkatesh B, editors. Oh's Intensive Care Manual (Ninth Edition). New Delhi: Elsevier; 2026. p. 915-21.

Keynote or Plenary Lectures given in 2025

Date	Title
August 2025	Chair, reconstructive session. ANZHNCS Annual Scientific meeting Adelaide, 2025. M. Batstone
February 2025	Tzu Chi Foundation TIMA Global Forum Panel: Technological Advancement in Medicine & Dentistry - Roundtable - H&N Cancer Pre-treatment management and rehabilitation, M. Batstone
February 2025	Tzu Chi Foundation TIMA Global Forum Panel: Technological Advancement in Medicine & Dentistry - Panel Discussion - Technological advancements in Medicine and Dentistry, D. Carluccio
July 2025	Chair, Mandible Reconstruction Session. IAIO Meeting, Liverpool. M Batstone

Ophthalmology Department

Research highlights

The Ophthalmology Department at RBWH supports multiple research projects across different subspecialty domains, including vitreoretinal, oculoplastics and ocular oncology. The primary aim of these studies is to improve the quality of care and clinical outcome for our patients. In involving many of our junior doctors in various research projects, the department aims to impart the essential tools of critical thinking for evidence-based medicine and more importantly, to pass on the ethos of responsible, thoughtful and compassionate patient care.

Research Awards and Achievements

Recipient (RBWH staff in bold)	Award	Event
Vu Nguyen	"RANZCO Congress Trainee Grant"	Support attendance at the 56 th RANZCO Congress in Melbourne, 14-17th November 2025
Anoushka Kothari	"The Glaucoma Australia Kath Holmes Prize"	For oral presentation at ANZGS, Perth, February 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
Tim Beckman	William Glasson and Lindsay McGrath	A Phase 1 Open-Label Trial to Evaluate the Safety and Feasibility of Belzupacap Sarotalocan (AU-011) for the Treatment of Conjunctival Melanoma, Melanocytic Lesions, or Conjunctival Squamous Cell Carcinoma		Ongoing
Tim Beckman	William Glasson and Lindsay McGrath	A Phase 3 randomized, masked, controlled trial to evaluate efficacy and safety of belzupacap sarotalocan (AU-011) treatment compared to sham control in subjects with primary indeterminate lesions or small choroidal melanoma.		Ongoing
Tim Beckman	William Glasson and Lindsay McGrath	A Randomized, Phase 3, Open-Label Study of Neoadjuvant Darovasertib in Subjects With Primary Non-Metastatic Uveal Melanoma		Ongoing
Raiza Sharma	Sonia Yuen, Sean Cheng, Naythen Hoang	Retrospective Audit of the Visual Acuity (VA) of all intravitreal (VI) Patients at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH) Ophthalmology Clinic Between January 2024 to January 2025 to Quantify the Number of Patients Receiving IVIs With Visual Acuity (VA) Worse than the Specified PBS Snellen Chart Criteria.		

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
Waseem Henein	Lawrence Lee, Naythen Hoang, Sonia Yuen and Cindy Liu	Retrospective Aflibercept 8mg Audit at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Ophthalmology Clinic.		
Clara Lee	Waseem Henein, Sean Chang and Naythen Hoang	Retrospective Faricimab Usage Audit at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Ophthalmology clinic between May 2022 to June 2026		

Research Publications

Publications in 2025

Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

McCartney MH, Sullivan TJ "Ocular Adnexal Lymphoma of the Lacrimal Drainage Apparatus: Clinical characteristics, radiographic features and management" Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery 2025 Nov 17. doi: [10.1097/IOP.0000000000003130](https://doi.org/10.1097/IOP.0000000000003130). Online ahead of print.

Walsh K, Whitehead K, Quagliotto G, **Sullivan TJ** "Non-Neural Granular Cell Tumor of the Eyelid in a Child: A Rare Periocular Presentation" Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery doi: [10.1097/IOP.0000000000003008](https://doi.org/10.1097/IOP.0000000000003008). Online ahead of print.

Wang DD, Sullivan TJ "Thyroid Autoantibodies in Paediatric Thyroid Eye Disease Patients in an Australian Population" Orbit. 2025 Feb 5:1-9. doi: [10.1080/01676830.2025.2457595](https://doi.org/10.1080/01676830.2025.2457595).

Kothari A, Wang DD, Menon VA, Sullivan TJ. "An unusual case of Medial Canthal Angioleiomyoma" Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery 2025 Sep-Oct 01;41(5):e148-e150. doi: [10.1097/IOP.0000000000002905](https://doi.org/10.1097/IOP.0000000000002905)

A Kothari and G. Lee. "Primary PreserFlo MicroShunt Versus Trabeculectomy: Effectiveness and Safety in the Real World" Journal of Clinical Medicine, DOI: [10.3390/jcm14217484](https://doi.org/10.3390/jcm14217484)

A Kothari and G. Lee. "Primary PreserFlo MicroShunt Versus Trabeculectomy: Effectiveness and Safety in the Real World" Journal of Clinical Medicine, DOI: [10.3390/jcm14217484](https://doi.org/10.3390/jcm14217484)

Walsh KL, **McCartney MH**, Fraser CJ, **Sullivan TJ**. "Pediatric Ocular Adnexal Lymphoma: Past, Present and Future: A case series and literature review" Accepted as a major review, Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery In press.

Kalas LC, Wang DD, **Sullivan TJ** "A Novel case of Presumed Immune Related Inflammatory Orbitopathy" Orbit In Press

Keynote or Plenary Lectures given in 2025

Date	Title
Sept 2025	"Stereotactic Navigation In Orbital Surgery" Sullivan TJ presented as a Keynote Speaker at the 43 rd Annual Meeting of the European Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Prague Czech Republic, 11-13 September 2025.
Aug 2025	"The Mark Harrison Lecture: An Ode to Clinical Research: The Long and Winding Road" Sullivan TJ presented as a Keynote Speaker at the RANZCO Queensland Branch Annual Scientific Meeting Gold Coast 22-24 August 2025.
Aug 2025	"Thyroid Eye Disease: From Nothingness to Eternity" Sullivan TJ presented as a Keynote Speaker at the RANZCO Queensland Branch Annual Scientific Meeting Gold Coast 22-24 August 2025.
Aug 2025	"Ocular Adnexal Lymphoma- The Philatelist" Sullivan TJ presented as a Keynote Speaker at the RANZCO Queensland Branch Annual Scientific Meeting Gold Coast 22-24 August 2025.
Aug 2025	"Orbital Infections" Sullivan TJ presented as an invited lecture at the ANZSOPS Orbit Symposium August 29 2005 Sydney Australia.
Aug 2025	"Thyroid Eye Disease: Epidemiology, biomarkers, gut biome, current medical and surgical management" Sullivan TJ presented as an invited lecture at the ANZSOPS Orbit Symposium August 29 2005 Sydney Australia.
April 2025	"Congenital Ptosis Revision Surgery" Sullivan TJ presented as an invited paper as part of the Revision Oculoplastic Surgeries Instruction Course at APAO New Delhi 3-6th April 2025, New Delhi.

Orthopaedic Surgery

Research highlights

Once again, 2025 was another successful year for the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the RBWH, with a large number of consultants, fellows, and registrars all contributing towards clinically relevant research and publications. As a result of our collective efforts the department again achieved a total of more than 20 publications, our annual benchmark. The most notable of these was the successful completion of a randomised controlled trial under the direction of Dr Gerrit Van de Pol and Dr James Brown, together with the Herston Imaging Research Facility (HIRF), comparing the influence of anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction surgical techniques on the development of tunnel-widening post-operatively. In addition, Dr Andrew Foster, in conjunction with the Jamieson Trauma Institute (JTI) and together with Professor Michael Schuetz, Dr Daniel Axelrod, Professor Andrej Trampuz, and Associate Professor Kevin Tetsworth, published a health-economic analysis regarding the impact of infection in pelvis and acetabular fracture cases treated operatively across Queensland. Furthermore, Dr Dennis Erbulut and Nicholas Green from the Herston Biofabrication Institute (HBI), together with Associate Professor Tetsworth, completed an interesting investigation regarding modelling of bone in-growth into a novel biomimetic scaffold of our own design.

As always, the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery remains committed to providing an environment that stimulates intellectual curiosity and facilitates academic rigour for our junior doctors and trainees, encouraging active participation in high quality research. Dr Seung-Min Youn has only recently been appointed as the Director of Research for the Department, to coordinate connections between consultants and registrars. As a registrar with a penchant for research, Dr Alex Karanja has organised several initiatives that are currently underway to evaluate the validity of various classification schemes related to orthopaedic trauma and infection. Through Professor Michael Schuetz, the Department maintains a close relationship with JTI and through this connection we have access to additional high-quality resources to support further research. Our unit is also a very active leader within the orthopaedic infection community, and the Multi-Disciplinary Device Related Infection Team (mDRIFT) has been an important addition to our clinical activity with a number of related research initiatives underway. With Dr Van de Pol as one of local coordinators and the surgical lead, we have already begun actively recruiting patients into the ROADMAP trial, a national multi-centre prosthetic joint infection registry with a number of different research arms. Dr Zhenya Welyczko, Associate Professor Tetsworth, Professor Schuetz, and Dr Van de Pol, in conjunction with the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, as well as the Departments of Plastic Surgery at both institutions, are involved in a number of research projects evaluating the treatment and outcomes regarding open fractures and segmental bone defects. This is expected to provide some insight into issues regarding timing of flap coverage, which has been widely debated internationally. Finally, Associate Professor Tetsworth has again been listed on Stanford's Top 2% Scientists, an international ranking that identifies the world's leading researchers, a designation he has been awarded for each of the past 4 years.

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
Professor M Schuetz , M Verhofstad, M Raschke, I Civil, T Miclau, B Gabbe	Jamieson Trauma Institute	Development of a global outcome measure for trauma	AO innovation funding	\$75,000 CHF	2 yrs, 2024-2026

Research Publications

Authors

Investigator	ORCID ID
Dr Bret Halliday	
Dr James Brown	

Dr Jon M Kinyanjui	
Dr Andrew Mayo	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7995-6237
Associate Professor Kevin Tetsworth	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3069-4141
Dr Gerrit Van de Pol	https://orcid.org/0009-0000-6109-2381
Dr Seung-Min Youn	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3474-2040
Dr Andrew Foster	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1191-3916
Dennis Erbulut	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5700-3515
Nicholas Green	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2841-3141
Professor Michael Schuetz	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2808-0631
Professor Andrej Trampuz	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5219-2521

Publications in 2025

Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Van de Pol GJ, McMullan M, Kinyanjui JM, Jeney P, Brown J. Suspensory screw fixation does not lead to increased tunnel widening in anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction: a randomized controlled trial comparing interference and suspensory screw fixation. *The Knee*. 2025 Oct 1; 56:503-9.

Pearce J, **Visscher L**, Karlovic N, **Halliday B**, Mason J. Hand and Foot Subungual Haematomas in Haemophilia: A Report of Six Cases. *Haemophilia*. 2025 Jul;31(4):696-702. doi: 10.1111/hae.70059. Epub 2025 Jun 2. PMID: 40452506.

Axelrod D, Foster AL, Warren J, **Trampuz A, Tetsworth KD, Schuetz MA.** Fracture-related infection after internal fixation of pelvic and acetabular fractures: a population-based analysis of risk factors and economic costs. *The Bone & Joint Journal*. 2025 Aug 1; 107(8): 839-45.

Afoakwah C, Warren J, McCreanor V, Banu S, **Schuetz M**, McPhail SM, Vallmuur K. Counting the cost of hospitalised injury using administrative data in Australia: three considerations from a retrospective cohort data linkage study. *BMJ open*. 2025 Feb 1;15(2): e087878.

Ferede Z, Das A, Manzanero S, Raman V, **Schuetz M**, Flaws D. Predictors of health-related quality of life among major trauma patients discharged from hospitals. A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Journal of Clinical Orthopaedics & Trauma*. 2025 Oct 1; 69.

Foster AL, Warren J, Proper M, Shibl R, Cramb S, Williamson F, **Trampuz A, Schuetz M**, Cameron CM. Long-term opioid use in operatively managed orthopaedic patients with fracture-related infections: A data linkage study. *Injury*. 2025 Aug 1;56(8):112566.

Lambert S, Babst R, Baumgaertel F, Jaeger M, Gebhard F, **Schuetz M**, Mischler D, Varga P. Enhancing Surgical Education of the Biomechanical Principles of Osteosynthesis and Fracture Healing Using the Interactive Online Knowledge Hub OSapp. *JOURNAL OF ORTHOPAEDIC TRAUMA*. 2025 Oct 1;39(10 S): S1-5.

van der Wal H, d'Escury WC, de Silva U, Saoud Y, Jennings G, Aitken LM, Carey K, Chowdhury S, Civil I, **Schuetz M**, Clarke D, Cudmore T. Development of a set of patient-centred outcome measures for patients with major injury: Delphi-based consensus recommendations from the International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement Major Injury Working Group. *eClinicalMedicine*. 2025 Dec 1;90.

Wang Y, Wang L, Soro N, Buenzli PR, Li Z, **Green N, Tetsworth K, Erbulut D.** Bone ingrowth simulation within the hexanoid, a novel scaffold design. *3D Printing and Additive Manufacturing*. 2024 Dec 1; 11(6): 1949-60.

Taqi M, Wongcharoenwatana J, Al Muderis M, Alttahir M, **Tetsworth K**, Shi C. Effects of femoral de-rotation on lower limb alignment using patient-specific guides with reliance on EOS scan, a retrospective study. *J Orthop Surg Res*. 2025 Apr 12; 20(1):371. doi: 10.1186/s13018-025-05774-4. PMID: 40221750; PMCID: PMC11993976.

Taqi M, Alttahir M, Al Muderis M, **Tetsworth K**, Dettmers R. Sequential transcutaneous mechanical femoral lengthening of a profoundly short skeletal residuum and subsequent successful transfemoral osseointegration: a case report describing a novel endo-exo intramedullary stump lengthening device. *JAAOS Global Research & Reviews*. 2025 May 1;9(5): e24.

Piercey JE, Noye N, Muhib MA, **Tetsworth K.** Single-stage revision of infected tibia nonunion with antibiotic cement-coated intramedullary nail versus Ilizarov methods: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Journal of Limb Lengthening & Reconstruction*. 2025 Jan 1; 11(1): 1-9.

Fink B, **Tetsworth K.** Antibiotic elution from cement spacers and its influencing factors. *Antibiotics*. 2025 Jul 14; 14 (7): 705.

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Panzures AC, Akhtar MA, Hoellwarth JS, **Tetsworth K**, Al Muderis M. Transcutaneous Osseointegration for Amputees as a Result of Sepsis Management: A Case Series of Nine Patients with a Mean Follow-up of 4 Years. *Strategies in Trauma and Limb Reconstruction*. 2025 Aug 18; 20 (1): 17.

Hohmann E, Molepo M, Laubscher M, **Tetsworth K**. Open Tibial Fractures Part 1: A Narrative Review of Initial Treatment and Potential Applicability to the Southern African Context. *Orthopedic Research and Reviews*. 2025 Dec 31: 427-36.

Schmutz B, Phan MT, Pople J, Lam BCW, Schoofs E, **Warren J**, Conlon J, Minehara H, **Tetsworth K**, **Schuetz M**. Effect of age, sex, height, ethnicity, and femoral bowing on the anatomical fitting of the LCP distal femur plate. *Archives of Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery*. 2025 145: 472. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00402-025-06079-1>.

Grzelecki D, Sypień P, Sujeesh S, von Eisenhart-Rothe R, Oliveira PR, Walter B, Kuo F-C, Parvizi J, **Tetsworth K**. 2025 ICM: Diagnostic Techniques – Serological and Point-of-Care. Is there a utility for point-of-care tests for diagnosing periprosthetic joint infections? *Arthroplasty*. 2025. DOI: 10.1016/j.arth.2025.10.078. Published online October 30, 2025.

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Heald W, Hoellwarth JS, **Tetsworth K**, Al Muderis M. Press-fit osseointegration for the forearm amputee. In: Rozbruch SR, Hamdy RC, Fragomen AT, Bernstein M (eds); ***Limb Lengthening and Reconstruction Surgery Case Atlas***. Sep 2024. DO: 10.1007/978-3-319-02767-8_567-1.

Fraser D, **Tetsworth K**. Masquelet reconstruction distal femoral segmental defect after 3A open fracture. In: Rozbruch SR, Hamdy RC, Fragomen AT, Bernstein M (eds); ***Limb Lengthening and Reconstruction Surgery Case Atlas***. 2024 Dec 31 (pp. 35-41). Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland.

Alttaahir M, Hoellwarth JS, **Tetsworth K**, Al Muderis M. Freedom nail lengthening followed by press-fit osseointegration for the transfemoral amputee with very short residual bone. In: Rozbruch SR, Hamdy RC, Fragomen AT, Bernstein M (eds); ***Limb Lengthening and Reconstruction Surgery Case Atlas***. 2025 Jan 2 (pp. 635-640). Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland.

Al-Maawi Q, Hoellwarth JS, **Tetsworth K**, Al Muderis M. Press-fit osseointegration for the pelvic disarticulation amputee. In: Rozbruch SR, Hamdy RC, Fragomen AT, Bernstein M (eds); ***Limb Lengthening and Reconstruction Surgery Case Atlas***. 2025 Jan 2 (pp. 641-645). Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland.

Diaska CE, **Tetsworth K**. Reconstruction of a lateral femoral condyle articular surface defect with a fresh osteochondral allograft. In: Rozbruch SR, Hamdy RC, Fragomen AT, Bernstein M (eds); ***Limb Lengthening and Reconstruction Surgery Case Atlas***. 2025 Jan 2 (pp. 413-419). Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland.

Hoellwarth JS, **Tetsworth K**, Al Muderis M. (2024). Simultaneous transfemoral amputation and press-fit osseointegration for the patient with severe complex regional pain syndrome. In: Rozbruch SR, Hamdy RC, Fragomen AT, Bernstein M (eds); Rozbruch, S.R., Hamdy, R.C., Fragomen, A.T., Bernstein, M. (eds) ***Limb Lengthening and Reconstruction Surgery Case Atlas***. Springer, Cham.

Tetsworth K. Salvage of an infected malunion of a lateral tibial plateau with staged revision to a bulk osteochondral allograft and associated lateral meniscal transplant. In: Rozbruch SR, Hamdy RC, Fragomen AT, Bernstein M (eds); ***Limb Lengthening and Reconstruction Surgery Case Atlas***: Adult Deformity 2025 Jan 2 (pp. 421-427). Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland.

Roberts C, Hoellwarth JS, **Tetsworth K**, Al Muderis M. Press-fit osseointegration for the transfemoral amputee. In: Rozbruch SR, Hamdy RC, Fragomen AT, Bernstein M (eds); ***Limb Lengthening and Reconstruction Surgery Case Atlas***: Upper Extremity 2025 Jan 2 (pp. 653-657). Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland.

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Research highlights

The Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Research Group at the RBWH represents a strategic evolution in research excellence and clinical innovation. The Group has rapidly matured over its eighteen-month operation into a dynamic force advancing surgical innovation while maintaining an unwavering focus on improving patient outcomes and elevating RBWH's reputation as a leading research institution.

Led by Dr Andrew Lewandowski and Research Coordinator Kylie Jacobs, the Research Group operates with a clear mission: to foster a culture of innovation, collaboration, and knowledge translation that directly enhances patient outcomes while driving the advancement of plastic and reconstructive surgery as a specialty. This patient-centred approach ensures that research activities remain grounded in clinical relevance, addressing real-world challenges faced by the diverse patient population. The structured research framework has enabled systematic investigation of clinical questions that emerge directly from practice, ensuring that findings can be immediately translated back into improved care delivery. The Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery service's commitment to excellence has already garnered significant recognition, with the team receiving the prestigious 2025 RBWH Staff Excellence Award and 2025 Metro North Staff Excellence Awards across multiple categories, including Values in Action, Leadership in Action, Excellence in Integrated Care, and Excellence in Performance—achievements that could not have been realized without the foundational research component driving continuous improvement and innovation.

The Research Group's diverse portfolio demonstrates the breadth and depth of ongoing investigations across the specialty. In skin cancer research, the team is conducting comprehensive studies examining lymph node metastasis patterns in squamous cell carcinoma, analysing the impact of resection margins on recurrence rates in pleomorphic dermal sarcomas, and investigating surgical management strategies for scalp squamous cell carcinoma across Queensland's major treatment centres. The "Project Zero" initiative exemplifies their commitment to service improvement, implementing redesign strategies to eliminate Category 1 skin cancer wait times through a zero-waitlist approach that directly addresses patient access to critical cancer care. In head and neck surgery, research encompasses level II neck dissection outcomes during parotidectomy and the examination of wider surgical margins in cases involving large nerve perineural spread, both addressing crucial questions in oncologic management. The Breast reconstruction portfolio includes groundbreaking collaboration with the Herston Biofabrication Institute on next-generation bioresorbable implants and optimisation of lipoaspirate for future breast remodelling. Additional studies address chest closure techniques following sternotomy, wound management approaches for skin graft donor sites, and novel patient education models through Breast Clinic shared care initiatives.

Looking forward, the Research Group is positioned to explore cutting-edge technologies and techniques. Future work on vascularised regenerative peripheral nerve interfaces which utilise vascularised, denervated muscle flaps, promises to bypass the revascularization delays and volume limitations of current approaches, offering new hope for patients requiring nerve reconstruction. The successful Queensland Medical Foundation Funding SPY camera technology providing surgeons with real-time visualisation of blood flow and tissue perfusion during surgery. This technology enables precise assessment of tissue viability and guides critical procedures including below-knee amputations and mapping of lymphatic pathways from tumours, enhancing surgical precision and patient outcomes.



Research Awards and Achievements

Recipient	Award	Event
Dr Cameron Mackay	Leadership in Action Award	Metro North Staff Excellence Awards 2025
Tia Kemp	Excellence in Performance Award	Metro North Staff Excellence Awards 2025
Tia Kemp Kylie Jacobs	Best Poster - Project Zero	Nursing and Midwifery research showcase 2025
Dr Cameron Mackay and the Plastics and Reconstructive Surgery Team, RBWH	Excellence in Integrated Care Award	Metro North Staff Excellence Awards 2025
Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Team, RBWH	Values in Action Award	Metro North Staff Excellence Awards 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
Shiv Chopra	Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery	Towards next generation bioresorbable implants for breast cancer reconstruction: using glycosaminoglycans to drive vascularisation.		\$20,000	2 Years
Andrew Lewandowski Kylie Jacobs	Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery	Enhancing Outcomes in Reconstructive Surgery through SPY PHI Camera	Queensland Technology Future Fund (QTFF) grant	\$175,500	2 years

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
Shiv Chopra	Michael Wagels	Next generation bioresorbable implants for breast reconstruction after cancer treatment: using glycosaminoglycans to drive vascularisation.		21
Andrew Lewandowski	Lachlan Stephens Alexander Murray-Douglass	Level II neck dissection at time of Parotidectomy, a retrospective cohort study		
Shireen Senewiratne	Noah Betar Henry Beem	Chest closure series - 450 sternotomy closures		0 (450 TPCH)
Milap Rughani	Noah Betar Elena Blyth Kieran Rowe Darryl Dunn	Free flap reconstruction of the scalp: Royal Brisbane Experience		
Milap Rughani	Nicola Zelow Tia Kemp	Skin Cancer in the Sunshine State: A single-centre approach to the management of Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer in the wake of COVID-19		

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
Darryl Dunn	Caitlin O'Hare Robert Calvisi Richard Ross Pascalino Romeo Michael Wagels Darryl Dunn	Lymph node metastasis in squamous cell carcinoma of the lip		250
Jason Brown	Lisa Davenport Jason Brown Amanda Kijas Darryl Dunn Andrew Dalley Peter Gilies	Prospective tissue collection of dermal donations for exploratory wound healing experimentation in vitro		100
Parsa Bokhariae	Parsa Bokhariae Darryl Dunn Milap Rughani Kieran Rowe Andrew Lewandowski	Retrospective case series of incidental malignancy in cranial Osteoradionecrosis specimens		38
Alexander Murray-Douglass	Darryl Dunn	Temporising nasal prosthesis with surgical tape following rhinectomy – a novel technique		0
Alexander Murray-Douglass	Andrew Lewandowski	Preoperative consideration of CPAP masks in head and neck reconstruction		0
Jasmine Zhang	Darryl Dunn, Kieran Rowe	Nerve transfers following radical parotidectomy: a 10 year retrospective review		80
Jasmine Zhang	Darryl Dunn	Innervated free flap reconstruction for facial reanimation: A case series		
Jasmine Zhang	Darryl Dunn	Nerve to Masseter transfer following facial nerve sacrifice: A review of 60 cases		60
Jasmine Zhang	Darryl Dunn	Descendens hypoglossi nerve transfer to the marginal mandibular nerve: A review of 21 cases		21

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 Andrej Trampuz	Andrew Foster Andrew Lewandowski Cliff Afoakwah Kevin Tetsworth Michael Schuetz Luke Watson Zhenya Welyczko Nicholas Jorgensen	Optimising Management of Open Tibia Fractures to Prevent Fracture-Related Infection		-

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 Brown	Lisa Davenport Jason Brown Amanda Kijas Darryl Dunn Andrew Dalley Peter Gilies	Prospective tissue collection of dermal donations for exploratory wound healing experimentation in vitro		100

Research Publications

Authors

Investigator	ORCID ID
Andrew Lewandowski	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8626-7037
Darryl Dunn	https://orcid.org/0009-0005-6343-9496
Kieran Rowe	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6332-8375
Milap Rughani	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0008-2291
Shiv Chopra	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4733-8020
Noah Betar	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5949-9411
Lisa Davenport	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8118-7572
Caitlin O'Hare	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1120-7931
Kylie Jacobs	https://orcid.org/0009-0005-9244-303X

Publications in 2025

Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Watson-Brown, P., Murray-Douglass, A., Withers, C., Vasani, S., & **Rughani, M.** (2025). The impact of age on postoperative functional decline and length of hospital stay in free flap reconstruction for head and neck cancer. Australian Journal Of Otolaryngology, 8. doi:10.21037/ajo-25-11

Keynote or Plenary Lectures given in 2025

Date	Title
Plastic Surgery The meeting 2025	Microsurgical reconstruction of major scalp defects; a perspective from Brisbane, Australia
Herston Health Precinct Symposium	Microsurgical reconstruction of major scalp defects; a perspective from RBWH
Herston Health Precinct Symposium	Vascularized Regenerative Peripheral Nerve Interface (vRPNI)



Professor Stuart Pegg Burns Centre

Research highlights

The Professor Stuart Pegg (PSP) Burns Centre delivers all adult burn care for Queensland, creating a strong platform for cutting-edge translational research. Its co-location with the Queensland Skin Culture Centre and the Herston Biofabrication Institute, along with close collaboration with the Jamieson Trauma Institute, STARS, UQ, QUT and the Fiona Wood Burns Research Centre, places the unit in an exceptional position to drive world-class innovation.

The Burns multidisciplinary research program was recently recognised as a finalist in the Metro North Research Excellence Awards under the Clinical Research category, providing a valuable opportunity to showcase the breadth and impact of burns research across the Metro North Health community.

Ongoing innovation at RBWH continues to advance burns care, including the use of vacuum therapy and 3D-printed modelling to support scar management, and virtual reality technologies to enhance rehabilitation for burns patients.

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
Andrea McKittrick	Burns Occupational Therapy	A pilot study to assess user satisfaction and implementation of a VR game for burns rehabilitation	Aurizon Community Grant to RBWH Foundation	\$3699	2025
Jason Brown	Andrea McKittrick	Implementation of a VR game for burns rehabilitation	Ampol Foundation	\$20000	2025-2027

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 Brown	Peter Gillies, Andrew Dally	Collection of skin tissue from burn wounds in adults. The Queensland Skin Culture Centre (QSCC) Biobank	N/A	16
Teresa Matthews	Jason Miller, Michael Rudd, Michael Muller, Jason Brown, Carl Lisec, Keith Towsey	Professor Stuart Pegg Adult Burn Centre (PSPABC), Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital (RBWH) submitting data to the Burns Registry of Australia and New Zealand (BRANZ)	N/A	N/A
Liz Vujcich	Jason Brown, Michelle Donovan, Noah Betar	ELATE - Early versus late ablative CO2 fractional laser treatment evaluation	N/A	11
Andrea McKittrick	Michelle Donovan, Amber Jones, Jason Brown, Liz Vujcich, Sue Laracy, Jennifer Strong	ELEVATE - Feasibility, Acceptability and Safety of Vacuum Therapy on Burn Scar outcomes	N/A	20
Jason Brown	Andrea Mc Kittrick, Mathilde Desselle, David Forrestal, Roozbeh Fakhr, Danielle Herbert, Aleksandra Edmundson	A pilot study to implement technology (3D Scanning and Printing) to improve long term burn facial scarring outcomes across the spectrum of care	N/A	15
Andrea McKittrick	Jason Brown, Aleksandra Edmundson, Mathilde Desselle, Marita Prior	A feasibility study comparing 3D scanning technology and current standard of care when measuring limbs	Involvement	7

RBWH Department Quality Improvement Activity

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff in bold)	Project Title
Elizabeth Vujcich	Jason Brown, Lucie Ayliffe-Daly	Laryngeal complications from prolonged intubation in adult burns patients: A 10-year retrospective study
Tu Ritchie		Managing Burns with UrgoTul® Ag: The RBWH Experience

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
Bronwyn Griffin	Maleea Holbert, Dhairya Vayada, Roy Kimble, Carl Lisec , Brett Paul Dyer, Marc Schnekenburger, Monique Bertinetti, Andrew Holland, Daniel Isacson, Varun Harish, Natalia Adanichkin, Linda Quinn, Bernard Carney, Rebecca Schrale, Paul Baker, Anne Darton	Hypothermia Risk Factors In Burn Patients During Emergency Presentations: A Retrospective Cohort Study	N/A	N/A
Merrilyn Banks (N&D)	Christian Redd (CSIRO), David Silvera-Tawil (CISRO), Dr Jason Brown (RBWH) Judy Bauer (N&D), Anita Plaza (PT) , Andrea McKittrick (OT) , Dr Elizabeth Vujcich (RBWH) , Claire Dux (N&D) , Bronwyn Segon , Dr Qing Zhang (CISRO), Marlien Varnfield (CISRO), Dale Trevor (Consume)	Feasibility of using wearable technology in patients with burn injury, to measure energy expenditure, and other observations, that can directly influence clinical care.	Involvement	13
Mark Fear	Fiona Wood, Natalie Jason Brown , Andrea McKittrick	TargEting Lysyl oxidase to ameliorate scarring in burn Trauma	Involvement	1

Research Publications

Authors

Investigator	ORCID ID
Jason Brown	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8386-1118

Publications in 2025

Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Noah Betar; **Michelle Donovan**; Zephania Tyack; Jacelle Warren; Steven M. McPhail; **Elizabeth Vujcich**; **Jason Brown**. Recovery in patients undergoing ablative fractional carbon dioxide laser for adult hypertrophic burn scars: A longitudinal cohort study. 2025. Burns Volume 51, Issue 1

Hunt J, Bowles M, Tellam N, Vujcich E, Brown J. Two Decades of Burns in Queensland (2003-2023): A Retrospective Analysis of Prospectively Collected Data. 2025. ANZ J Surg. Aug 14. doi: 10.1111

Ben Gardiner, Victoria Coles, **Elizabeth Vujcich Michael C Reade Nermin Karamujic Elissa M. Milford**. Lower fluid resuscitation volumes in the first 24 hours following a severe burn injury are independently associated with greater days alive and out of hospital: A retrospective cohort study. 2025, Burns Vol 51. Issue 8.

Mitchell Mostina, Jane Sun, Seen Ling Sim, Imaan Ahmed, Fernando Souza-Fonesca-Guimaraes, Ernst Wolvetang, Jason Brown, Snehlata Kumari, Kiarash Khosrotehrani, Abbas Shafiee. Coordinated Development of Immune Cell Populations in Vascularized Skin Organoids from Human Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells. 2025. Adv Healthcare Materials December 202514(31) DOI:10.1002/adhm.70396

Jane Sun, Imaan Ahmed, **Jason Brown**, Kiarash Khosrotehrani, **Abbas Shafiee**, The empowering influence of air-liquid interface culture on skin organoid hair follicle development. 2025 Burns & Trauma 13 DOI:10.1093/burnst/tkae070

Mc Kittrick, A., Hammond, L., & **Brown, J**. Interventions for Functional and Cosmetic Outcomes Post Burn for Eyelid Ectropion—A Scoping Review.2025. European Burn Journal 6(3). 46. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ebj6030046>

Keynote or Plenary Lectures given in 2025

Date	Title
11/04/2025	Mc Kittrick A., & Brown J. Correlative XIV: Reconstruction and Clinical Management of Scars : Implementation of 3D technology for Facial Scars across the Spectrum of Care American Burns Association Annual Meeting Phoenix, Arizona, USA 2025
23/10/2025	Mc Kittrick, A. & Brown, J. Timing Matters: A Comparative Study of Early and Late Endermologie® Vacuum Therapy in Post-Burn Scar Treatment. ANZTS Trauma Conference 2025 Wellington New Zealand
14/11/2025	Brown, J. Mc Kittrick, A & Plaza, A. MDT in Queensland Burns Unit South Africa Burn Society Conference 2025

Trauma Service

Research highlights

A highlight of the year was the further impact that the collaborative publication CODI: Rib Fractures had, winning the best presentation at the Chest Wall Injury Society (CWIS) meeting in Brussels, Belgium. CWIS is internationally recognised to lead and inspire the management of chest wall trauma internationally with collaborators from across the world presenting novel treatment for this cohort.

Associate Professor Frances Williamson was elected to full member of the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (ILCOR) First Aid Task Force and has led and supported the development of systematic reviews and the publication results have been incorporated into international guidelines for resuscitation.

Dr Carl Lisec's publication examining the risks and impact of Lithium Battery device fires was used in the Queensland Parliamentary Inquiry into the electric personal mobility device (E-PMD) review.

Associate Professor Frances Williamson and team were recognised for their work as a finalist at the Metro North Research Excellence Awards in the Research Implementation category for their work focussed on increasing the availability of ultrasound-guided vascular access through research, implementation and education.

Research Awards and Achievements

Recipient (RBWH staff in bold)	Award	Event
Associate Professor Frances Williamson	2025 Best Paper Presentation	Chest Wall Injury Society Meeting In Brussels, Belgium
Associate Professor Frances Williamson	2025 Best Paper Presentation	Australian And New Zealand Trauma Society Conference, Wellington, New Zealand
Associate Professor Frances Williamson	2025 Finalist Research Implementation Award	Metro North Research Excellence Awards
Dr Rebekah Young	Best Medical Presentation award	Australia and New Zealand Trauma Society Conference, Wellington, New Zealand
Dr Rebekah Young	Finalist in the category of Consumer Partnerships.	Metro North Staff Excellence Awards

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
Muller, C Santomauro, S Pearce, F Williamson, S Manzanero, S Grantham, J Sweeney, M Jennings, I Salisbury	Trauma Service, Jamieson Trauma Institute	Building a legion of roadside immediate responders: STOP THE BLEED enhancement and evaluation	MAIC	\$100,432	2 years, 2025-2026
I Gosper, M Schuetz, S Banu, F Williamson, K Vallmuur, S Cramb, C Afoakwah, C Morrey, G Van de Pol, Z Welyczko, M Jennings	Orthopaedics, Trauma Service, Jamieson Trauma Institute	Pelvic trauma improvement program phase 1: mapping the trends, risk factors and cost of pelvic trauma hospitalisations.	MAIC	\$87,256	2 years, 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
Williamson F , Thompson K, Parker C, Candusso D, Lockyer L, Winter G, Saunders T, Owens L , Dodds M, Muller M .	Trauma Service, Emergency and Trauma Centre	Can interactive online learning using enhanced technology adequately teach trauma-based procedural skills to emergency nursing clinicians?	Emergency Medicine Foundation	\$97,469	2 years, 2024-2025
Philip Jones, Julian Wong, Paul Butel, Grace Xu, Justin Gundara, Elizabeth Martin, Robert Ware, Brett Dyer, Frances Williamson , Carl Lisec	Trauma Service, Emergency Department (in collaboration with Logan Hospital)	Implementation and Evaluation of a Surgical Rapid Assessment Unit – Improving Emergency Department Flow with Timely Surgical Care	Emergency Medicine Foundation	\$227,809	2025-2026
Mark Midwinter, Elissa Milford , Carl Lisec , Micheal Reade, Halley	Trauma Service (in collaboration with UQ)	Road trauma Patients: promoting recovery, repair and rehabilitation.	Motor Accident Insurance Commission	\$893 250	2025-2028
M Muller , F Williamson , S Pearce , J Sweeney , R Young , S Manzanero	Trauma Service, Jamieson Trauma Institute	Building a legion of roadside immediate responders: STOP THE BLEED® training expansion	TraumaLink donation through the RBWH Foundation	\$35,000	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
Frances Williamson	M Joarder, M Wullschleger, D Lockwood, M Ben David, B Schultz	Outcomes following tourniquet use for the management of acute limb trauma in Queensland, Australia: a retrospective study	Involvement	0
Frances Williamson	K Thompson, C Parker, D Candusso, L Lockyer, M Muller , G Winter, T Saunders, M Dodds	Can interactive online learning using enhanced technology adequately teach trauma-based procedural skills to emergency nursing clinicians?	Not applicable	0
Frances Williamson	S Banu , M Muller , GY Seo	Injury-related compartment syndrome data analysis and education	Involvement	246 presentations across Queensland

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
Ms Sophie Anderson	Associate Professor Frances Williamson	Contemporary tranexamic acid use in trauma: a retrospective review of dosing practices.		
Ms Kimberly Ballinger	Associate Professor Frances Williamson	QLD Trauma Education Program: Bridging the gap in trauma education using state driven data to drive local tailored trauma training and improve trauma system design		Clinicians, not patients
Phillip Jones	Julian Wong, Paul Butel, Grace Xu, Aisling Fleury, Justin Gundara, Elizabeth Martin, Robert Ware, Carl Lisec, Frances Williamson	Implementation and Evaluation of a Surgical Rapid Assessment Unit – Improving Emergency Department Flow with Timely Surgical Care.	Involvement	0

RBWH Department Quality Improvement Activity

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff in bold)	Project Title
Timothy O'Sullivan	Carl Lisec	Clinical Output of pharmacological therapy for acute colonic pseudo-obstruction (ACPO)
Carl Lisec	Stephanie Macfarlen, Adam McNamara, Robert McNicol, Rebekah Young	Management of Splenic Injury Retrospective Review - 10 year review at a Tertiary Centre
Michael Reade	Carl Lisec, Patrick Litchfield	Audit of emergency thoracotomy for traumatic cardiac arrest
Michael Rudd	Carl Lisec, Adam McNamara, Thishan Kaluthotage	Subcutaneous Neostigmine for Acute Colonic Pseudo-obstruction – A ten-year single institution experience
Carl Lisec	Bence Kiska	Traumatic bowel and mesenteric injuries – accuracy of CT detection

Research Publications

Authors

Investigator	ORCID ID
Frances Williamson	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5476-1791
Carl Lisec	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1664-0462
Michael Handy	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1236-0460

Publications in 2025

Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Williamson F. Leading the way for optimal trauma care. *EMA*. 2025; 37:e70116. Doi.org/10.1111/1742-6723.70116.

Williamson F, Killey J, Rodwell D, Davidson K, Warren J, **Handy M**, Wullschleger M, Tyack Z. Understanding experiences, contextual factors and implementation outcomes of a major trauma service: A qualitative study. *Injury*; online 5/8/2025. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.injury.2025.112651>

Wake E, McPaul A, Forbes J, Rolley A, Keijzers G, **Williamson F**, Winkleman C, Creswell P, Van der Merwe M, Sanders S. Trauma activation criterion as predictors of major traumatic injuries: A systematic review. *Injury*. 2025;56: 112596

Foster A, Warren J, Proper M, Shibl R, Cramb S, **Williamson F**, Trampuz A, Scheutz M, Cameron C. Long term opioid use in operatively managed orthopaedic patients with fracture-related infections: A data linkage study. *Injury*. 2025; Article in Press.

Laermans J, Singletary EM, Macneil F, **Williamson F**, D'anes T, Cimpoesu DC, Djarv T, De Buck E. Spinal motion restriction for possible traumatic cervical spine injury: A scoping review. *Cureus*. 2025; 17(5): e84393. Doi:10.7759/cureus.84393.

Williamson F, Cullen L, Atkinson P. Empowering rural emergency physicians: POCUS as a diagnostic lifeline. *CJEM*. 2025; 27:159-160. doi.10.1007/s43678-025-00879-5.

Seo GY, Das A, Manzanero S, Kim K, **Lisec C**, **Muller M**. The influence of pre-injury anticoagulant or antiplatelet agents on outcomes in trauma patients sustaining abdominal solid organ injuries: A scoping review. 2025. *Injury*. 2025 Mar;56(3):112175. doi: 10.1016/j.injury.2025.112175

Patterson S, Brigg N, **Handy M**, Tronstad O, Flaws D. A reason to recover: A qualitative study of recovery after traumatic chest wall injury requiring intensive care admission. 2025. *Injury*. 2025 May;56(5):112330. doi: 10.1016/j.injury.2025.112330

Djarv T, Douma MJ, Carlson JN, Singletary EM, Berry DC, Bradley RN, Cassan P, Chang WT, Charlton NP, Cimpoesu D, et al (inc **Williamson F**). First Aid: 2025 International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation Consensus on Science With Treatment Recommendations. *Resuscitation*. 2025;215 Suppl 2:110815.

Djarv T, Douma MJ, Carlson JN, Singletary EM, Berry DC, Bradley RN, Cassan P, Chang WT, Charlton NP, Cimpoesu D, et al (inc **Williamson F**). First Aid: 2025 International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation Consensus on Science With Treatment Recommendations. *Circulation*. 2025;152(16_suppl_1):S250-S282.

Urology Clinical Research Unit

Research highlights

In 2025, the Urology Department and Urology Clinical Research Unit (URO CRU) focused on department led and collaborative research projects. The PRIMARY2 trial concluded recruitment, with RBWH being one of the top recruiters in Australia and a Phase III imaging trial of a new PSMA PET agent commenced. Important investigator-initiated trials including the PEPPER trial in renal cancer and PIAS trial in prostate cancer continued to recruit to help answer important questions and impact direct management of patients through additional PET imaging. All of these were only possible with the outstanding commitment and expertise of our Urology Research Nurse, Karla Cullen.

In the face of a significantly increasing clinical workload to treat patients from all over Queensland, the department continued to contribute to the broader urology profession with 17 peer reviewed journal articles.

We continue to undertake collaborative projects alongside Nuclear Medicine, Radiation and Medical Oncology as well as The University of Queensland, Herston Imaging and Research Facility, The Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, The Garvan Institute of Medical Research and St Vincent's Private Hospital, Sydney.

RBWH Urology Department members including Associate Professor John Yaxley, Associate Professor Matthew Roberts and Dr Adam Pearce were invited speakers at national and international conferences showcasing the clinical and research expertise present in the unit.

Associate Professor Matthew Roberts was appointed as joint Editor, USANZ Supplement for BJU International, following a competitive selection process. Associate Professor Yaxley continues his role as Associate Editor of the Prostate Cancer Prostatic Diseases journal. They both contributed as members of the Organising Committee of the Asia-Pacific Prostate Cancer Conference (APCC). RBWH urology team members were co-investigators in grant applications to MRFF and PCFA that were unfortunately not awarded.

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
Kulasinghe A, Roberts M	Department of Urology	Prostate Cancer – FDG – Spatial Imaging	PA Research Foundation	\$25,000	2 yrs 2024- 2025
Koo M, Roberts M	Department of Urology	Developing and trialling new personalised companion diagnostics for different prostate cancer treatments. Precision Prostate Cancer Program	RBWH Foundation (Project Grant)	\$330,000	4 yrs, 2024- 2027
Hooper J, Thomas P, Roberts M , Oliveira N, Matsika M, Vela I	Department of Urology	Targeting bladder cancer with anti- CDCP1 radioconjugates	CUREator	\$950,500	2 yrs, 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
Pearce A	Bowes W, Dhiantravan N , Gan CL , Gordon Brown DJ, Jones L, Pattison D , Roberts M .	Prospective comparison of PSMA PET CT vs FDG PET CT in staging of Renal Tumours (PEPPER): a pilot trial.	Involvement	12 from RBWH in 2025 23 from RBWH in total.

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
Buteau JP	Moon D, Fahey MT, Roberts MJ Thompson J, Murphy DG, Papa N, Mitchell C, De Abreu Lourenco R, Dhillon HM, Kasivisvanathan V, Francis RJ, Stricker P, Agrawal S, O'Brien J, McVey A, Sharma G, Levy S, Ayati N, Nguyen A, Lee SF, Pattison DA , Sivaratnam D, Frydenberg M, Du Y, Titus J, Lee ST, Ischia J, Jack G, Hofman MS, Emmett L	PRIMARY2: A Multicentre, Phase 3, Randomised Controlled Trial Investigating the Additive Diagnostic Value of [⁶⁸ Ga]Ga-PSMA-11 Positron Emission Tomography/Computed Tomography in Men with Negative or Equivocal Multiparametric Magnetic Resonance Imaging for the Diagnosis of Clinically Significant Prostate Cancer	Consultation	11 from RBWH in 2025. 62 from RBWH in total.
Thompson J	Stricker P, Emmett L, Yaxley J , Savdie R, Rasiyah K, Frydenberg M, Roberts M , Feng D, Leslie S.	The "PIAS" Trial – Prospective cross-sectional study of 68Ga-PSMA PET/CT in addition to mpMRI in men undergoing biopsy during Active Surveillance for low- or intermediate-risk prostate cancer.	Involvement	6 from RBWH in 2025 6 from RBWH in total.
Emmett L	Patel M, Symons J, Roberts M	CLP10 AMPLIFY: 64Cu-SAR-bisPSMA Positron Emission Tomography: A Phase 3 Study of Participants with Biochemical Recurrence of Prostate Cancer	Involvement	2 from RBWH in 2025.

Research Publications

Authors

Investigator	ORCID ID
Matthew Roberts	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0552-7402
Rachel Esler	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7743-4841
Anojan Navaratnam	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4684-0235
Adam Pearce	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9438-1008

John Yaxley	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6566-9037
Kandice Keogh	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7424-6976
Nigel Dungleison	
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Susan Toolis	
Leanne Morton	
Jessica Doellinger	
Patricia Thomas-Gabbett	
Elisabeth Winslade	
Karla Cullen	

Publications in 2025

Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Bahadori A, **Woods J**, Yuan L, Emmett L, **Yaxley J**, **Roberts MJ**. Biopsy-free radical prostatectomy: a narrative review considering rationale, limitations, and current data. *Prostate Int*. 2025 Jun;13(2):67-73. doi: 10.1016/j.pmil.2025.03.003. Epub 2025 Mar 18. PMID: 40620872; PMCID: PMC12223532.

Chen DC, Buteau JP, Emmett L, Alipour R, de Galiza Barbosa F, **Roberts MJ**, McVey A, O'Brien J, Levy S, Francis RJ, Lawrentschuk N, Murphy DG, Hofman MS. Prevalence and Medium-Term Outcomes of Patients with Biopsy-Proven Intermediate- to High-Risk Prostate Adenocarcinoma with Low Intraprostatic Uptake on [⁶⁸Ga]Ga-PSMA-11 PET/CT in the proPSMA Study. *J Nucl Med*. 2025 May 1;66(5):713-718. doi: 10.2967/jnumed.124.268901. PMID: 40147846.

Cheng J, Adhami M, King D, **Yaxley J**, Kavnoudias H, Grummet J. Focal irreversible electroporation for the treatment of localised prostate cancer: a systematic review. *Transl Androl Urol*. 2025 Dec 31;14(12):4012-4032. doi: 10.21037/tau-2025-678. Epub 2025 Dec 26. PMID: 41522319

Collin H, Cockburn R, Hou XY, **Toolis S**, **Winslade E**, Dickson K, **Esler R**. Determinants of Nonattendance in a Urology Outpatient Clinic: A 5-Year Retrospective Study in a Tertiary Metropolitan Hospital. *ANZ J Surg*. 2025 Oct;95(10):2197-2204. doi: 10.1111/ans.70280. Epub 2025 Aug 14. PMID: 40810463; PMCID: PMC12571951.

Collin H, Huang B, **Siriwardana A**, Harris C, Stevenson A, **Navaratnam A**, **Esler R**, **Roberts MJ**. Simultaneous robotic-assisted prostatectomy and rectal resection: a systematic review. *J Robot Surg*. 2025 May 23;19(1):229. doi: 10.1007/s11701-025-02395-1. PMID: 40407946; PMCID: PMC12102092.

Kalansuriya D, **Roberts J**, Britton S, Kimble RM. Pregnancy after repaired bladder exstrophy: a case report. *Case Rep Womens Health*. 2025 Jul 18;47:e00734. doi: 10.1016/j.crwh.2025.e00734. PMID: 40735733; PMCID: PMC12304746

Losco G, Chan L, **Esler R**, Naganathan V, Blyth F. Natural history of lower urinary tract symptoms and voiding parameters in ageing men with 5-year follow-up-the concord health and ageing in men project (CHAMP). *Age Ageing*. 2025 Mar 28;54(4):afaf078. doi: 10.1093/ageing/afaf078. PMID: 40188491; PMCID: PMC11972631.

Nair-Shalliker V, Smith DP, Gebiski V, Patel MI, Frydenberg M, **Yaxley J**, Gardiner R, Espinoza D, Kimlin MG, Dhillon V, Leifert W, Gillatt D, Woo H, Rasiah K, Awad N, Symons J, Wells JK, Pickett HA, Fenech M, Anderson PH, Armstrong BK, Gurney H. High-dose vitamin D supplementation and prostate cancer progression: a phase II randomised trial in localised prostate cancer cases with intermediate risk of progression (ProsD). *Br J Cancer*. 2026 Mar;134(5):735-745. doi: 10.1038/s41416-025-03278-w. Epub 2025 Dec 21. PMID: 41423505

Perera M, **Roberts M**, Lawrentschuk N. Taking guard for the next innings. *BJU Int*. 2025 Oct;136 Suppl 2:S4. doi: 10.1111/bju.70069. PMID: 41201841.

Roberts MJ, Arora S, Yao HH, Hogan D, Dias B, O'Connell HE, Wetherell D, Zargar H, Kwok M, **McGeorge SP**, **Pearce A**, **Yaxley J**, Tuffaha H. Transperineal prostate biopsy under local vs general anaesthesia: a cost-effectiveness analysis. *BJU Int*. 2025 Jul;136(1):128-134. doi: 10.1111/bju.16722. Epub 2025 Apr 4. PMID: 40185684; PMCID: PMC12134452.

Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Roberts MJ, Bahadori A, Perera ML. Biopsy-free radical prostatectomy for prostate cancer-modern reality or pipe dream? Transl Androl Urol. 2025 May 30;14(5):1165-1168. doi: 10.21037/tau-2025-8. Epub 2025 May 27. PMID: 40529023; PMCID: PMC12170286.

Roberts MJ, Gandaglia G, Oprea-Lager DE, Stranne J, Cornford P, Tilki D; EAU-EANM-ESTRO-ESUR-ISUP-SIOG Guidelines Panel. Pelvic Lymph Node Dissection in Prostate Cancer: Evidence and Implications. Eur Urol. 2025 Jun;87(6):619-621. doi: 10.1016/j.eururo.2025.03.004. Epub 2025 Apr 7. PMID: 40199676.

Roberts MJ, Roberts NA, Pelecanos A, **Yaxley JW**, Harley SJD, **Siriwardana AR**, **Cullen K**, Prior M, Lindsay K, Vela I, Kuchel A, Dhiantravan N, Thomas P, Pattison DA. A prospective, multi-centre trial of PSMA-PET compared to FDG-PET for staging of newly diagnosed high risk prostate cancer. EJNMMI Res. 2025 Jul 24;15(1):92. doi: 10.1186/s13550-025-01265-z. PMID: 40705116; PMCID: PMC12290150.

Schofield P, Quinn S, Richards N, White A, White F, Frydenberg M, Chambers S, Gordon LG, Gardiner RA', Murphy DG, **Roberts MJ**, **Yaxley J**, Lawrentschuk N, Chu K, Millar J, Grummet J, Juraskova I. An Online Treatment Decision Aid for Men with Low-risk Prostate Cancer Eligible for Active Surveillance and Their Partners Increases the Uptake of Active Surveillance: The Navigate Randomised Controlled Trial. Eur Urol Oncol. 2025 Oct;8(5):1227-1236. doi: 10.1016/j.euo.2025.02.004. Epub 2025 Apr 12. PMID: 40222891.

Teppala S, Scuffham P, Edmunds K, **Roberts MJ**, Smith DP, Fairbairn D, Horvath LG, Tuffaha H. The cost-utility of targeted germline BRCA testing in localized prostate cancer followed by cascade testing first-degree relatives with pathogenic variants. Genet Med. 2025 Aug;27(8):101463. doi: 10.1016/j.gim.2025.101463. Epub 2025 May 22. PMID: 40417742.

Yaxley JW. Pelvic lymph node dissection in prostate cancer, still no level 1 evidence of oncological benefit. Time to consider surveillance of negative pelvic lymph nodes on PSMA PET scan staging. Prostate Cancer Prostatic Dis. 2025 Dec 20. doi: 10.1038/s41391-025-01065-5. Online ahead of print. PMID: 41422351

Yaxley JW. Multiparametric prostate MRI improves the diagnosis of a clinically significant prostate cancer in PSA screening; but what is the benefit of additional risk calculators? Prostate Cancer Prostatic Dis. 2025 Dec 4. doi: 10.1038/s41391-025-01058-4. Online ahead of print. PMID: 41345259

Keynote or Plenary Lectures given in 2025

Date	Title
EAU25: 40th Annual EAU Congress (21st to 24th March)	John Yaxley - Quality metrics in prostate cancer Matthew Roberts – Session Chair – Abstract Session 35: Prostate cancer outcomes after active surveillance and radical prostatectomy
Urological Society of Australia and New Zealand, ASM 2025 (1 st to 4 th March 2025)	Adam Pearce - Evolution and evaluation of PSMA PET for renal cell carcinoma Matthew Roberts - EAU prostate cancer guidelines update Matthew Roberts - Review of biopsy free radical prostatectomy - ready for the prime time?
Asia-Pacific Prostate Cancer Conference (APCC) 2025 (21st to 23rd August)	John Yaxley - Quality metrics in prostate cancer Matthew Roberts – Current recruiting trials in prostate cancer in Australia Matthew Roberts – Cost-effectiveness of LA vs GA TP biopsy Matthew Roberts – Session Chair – Multidisciplinary Plenary
Faculty of Radiation Oncology Genito-Urinary Group (FROGG) 2025 (3rd to 5th September 2025)	Matthew Roberts – Radiorecurrent prostate cancer – how a surgeon can help Matthew Roberts – Panel Discussion – Tricky cases/complications

Vascular Surgery Outpatient Research Department

Research highlights

The Vascular Surgery Outpatient Research Department at RBWH has continued to collaborate with the Queensland Research Centre for Peripheral Vascular Disease (QRCPWD) at James Cook University led by Distinguished Professor Jonathan Golledge. The Vascular Surgery OPD at RBWH is the study site for four investigator-initiated trials sponsored by James Cook University, with Dr Murray Ogg and Dr Jason Jenkins leading the site as principal investigators of the trials. The collaboration between the QRCPWD and RBWH has led to the employment of a Metro North clinical research nurse, who has initiated recruitment across two of the QRCPWD clinical trials.

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 Jason Jenkins, Dr Danella Favot, Dr Murray Ogg, Dr Nigel Pinto, Professor Jonathan Golledge	Vascular Outpatients	The Metformin Aneurysm Trial (MAT)	NHMRC	\$4,998,679	8 years, 2020-2027
Dr Jason Jenkins, Dr Danella Favot, Dr Murray Ogg, Dr Nigel Pinto, Professor Jonathan Golledge	Vascular Outpatients	Metformin for Treating Peripheral Artery Disease-Related Walking Impairment (MERIT)	SERTA Grant – Townsville University Hospital	\$50,000	7 years, 2021-2027
Dr Murray Ogg, Professor Jonathan Golledge	Vascular Outpatients	The Holistic Peripheral Artery Disease Management Trial (OPTIMAL)	Heart Foundation Strategic Funding	\$1,000,000	4 years, 2021-2025
Dr Murray Ogg, Professor Jonathan Golledge	Vascular Outpatients	The Tele-Artery Trial (TEAL)	Medical Research Future Funds	\$2,862,084	7 years, 2022-2028

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 Murray Ogg (Principal Investigator), Professor Jonathan Golledge (Chief Investigator)	Dr Jason Jenkins, Dr Danella Favot, Dr Nigel Pinto	Metformin Aneurysm Trial	Consumer-Led, Partnership, Involvement	2 in 2025
Dr Murray Ogg (Principal Investigator), Professor Jonathan Golledge (Chief Investigator)	Dr Jason Jenkins	The Holistic Peripheral Artery Disease Management Trial	Consumer-Led, Partnership, Involvement	4 in 2025

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 Murray Ogg (Principal Investigator), Professor Jonathan Golledge (Chief Investigator)	Dr Jason Jenkins	The Tele-Artery Trial	Consumer-Led, Partnership, Involvement	0 in 2025 (study recruitment on hold)

Research Publications

Authors

Investigator	ORCID ID
Dr Jason Jenkins	
Dr Murray Ogg	
Dr Lucy Guazzo	
Dr Emma Powell	
Dr Danella Favot	
Dr Chelsea Tong	https://orcid.org/0009-0004-9441-3427
Dr Nigel Pinto	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1012-1060
Teal Derboghossian	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2999-5190
Samantha Hill	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8869-4235

Publications in 2025

Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Hill S, Guazzo L, Derboghossian T. Carotid Web Case Report: A Carotid Bifurcation Disorder Causing Stroke Without Localised Significant Stenosis. Australasian Journal of Ultrasound in Medicine. 2025 Nov;28(4):e70027.

Kumar S, Walker A, Leech C, **Powell E**, Varrall R, Ramsay S, Searle R, Jensen S. Learnings From the Front Line: Early Implementation Experiences of the Central Queensland Foot Hub Virtual Multidisciplinary Team Model-of-Care. Australian Journal of Rural Health. 2025 Apr;33(2):e70014.

Hinde D, Palamuthusingam D, Hawley CM, Pascoe EM, Johnson DW, **Pinto N**, Fahim M. Outcomes of elective endovascular aneurysm repair in patients receiving chronic kidney replacement therapy from a binational data linkage study. Journal of Vascular Surgery. 2025 Jul 17.

Weekes A, Davern JW, **Pinto N, Jenkins J**, Li Z, Meinert C, Klein TJ. Enhancing compliance and extracellular matrix properties of tissue-engineered vascular grafts through pulsatile bioreactor culture. Biomaterials Advances. 2025 Oct 1;175:214346.

Eley V, Peters N, Woods C, Llewellyn S, **Derboghossian T, Ogg M**, Rickard CM, Chin A. Perioperative arterial catheterization: A prospective evaluation of ultrasound, infection, and patient-focused outcomes. The Journal of Vascular Access. 2025 May;26(3):837-45.

Yoon J, Mott N, **Jenkins J**, Rudd M, **Papacostas J**, Alexander H. Management of intracardiac migrated ventriculoperitoneal shunts: illustrative case. Journal of Neurosurgery: Case Lessons. 2025 Apr 21;9(16).

Sharma C, Wu M, Enjeti A, Thanigaimani S, **Jenkins J**, Quigley F, Golledge J. Use of artificial intelligence-assisted measurement of aortic diameter in clinical decision making about abdominal aortic aneurysm repair. Abdominal Radiology. 2025 Dec 27:1-0.

Keynote or Plenary Lectures given in 2025

Date	Title
03/10/2025	Kruger, Allan. Mesenteric Reconstruction. ANZSVS Conference 2025. Adelaide, SA AU
03/10/2025	Finch, Courtney. Deadly Feet: Your foot health, Closer to home. ANZSVS Conference 2025. Adelaide, SA AU