



Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

# RBWH Research Report 2025

Women's and Newborn Services

Metro North  
Health



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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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Contents

Women’s and Newborn Services ..... 4

Grantley Stable Neonatal Unit..... 5

Obstetrics and Gynaecology..... 11

Obstetric Medicine ..... 16

Perinatal Research Centre..... 20

Queensland Centre for Gynaecological Cancer..... 24

Nursing and Midwifery Research..... 31

# Women's and Newborn Services

## Research highlights



**Peter Buttrum**  
**Executive Director**  
**Women's and Newborn Services**



**Professor Leonie Callaway**  
**Director of Research**  
**Women's and Newborn Services**

We are delighted to present the Women's and Newborn Services 2025 Research Report.

Research is critical to contemporary health services and improving outcomes for patients, and this drives commitment to research within Women's and Newborn Services (WNS). It also drives the aspiration for RBWH as a world class centre, and it helps us to retain the very best staff.

The research conducted within WNS is almost exclusively clinician lead research and reliant on peer reviewed funding or philanthropic funding. We are extremely grateful for the support we have from many philanthropic organisations, including the RBWH Foundation. We are also very proud of the fact we have NHMRC and MRFF funded research across all areas of WNS, including midwifery, obstetrics, gynaecology, maternal-fetal medicine, obstetric medicine, and gynaecological oncology. We also continue our focus on Health Equity research activities across the service line.

In acknowledging some outstanding nursing research achievements, Associate Professor Lauren Kearney was awarded the Professor Joan Webster Nursing & Midwifery Researcher of the Year at the Metro North Research Excellence Awards. Dr Deanne August was awarded a Metro North Health Clinical Research Fellowship, which will support her research within the neonatal service, particularly focusing on improved skin integrity. Stephanie Hall and Lisa McKeown also received prestigious awards from the 2025 Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand (PSANZ) Annual Congress and the Herston Health Precinct Symposium, respectively.

After being made a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences for outstanding professional achievements in 2024, Professor Andreas Obermair won the 2025 Clinician Researcher of the Year Award at the UQCCR Director Awards, as well as Austrian Society for Obstetrics & Gynaecology's 2025 Semmelweis Award. Professor Leonie Callaway and Associate Professor Lauren Kearney were also part of an award-winning research team recognised at the 2025 Australian Consumer Partnership in Research Awards.

The Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department continues to lead high profile collaborative research programs in the areas of endometriosis, reducing the rates of preterm birth, and smoking reduction in pregnancy, whilst the Obstetrics Medicine service in 2025 has continued to highlight a broad range of active clinician researchers and exceptional outputs.

Finally, we are exceptionally grateful for the ongoing partnerships and collaborations with universities, research institutes and funding bodies. We are also grateful for our patients and consumers who are increasingly helping us to ask good questions and direct our research to priorities that matter to them.

# Grantley Stable Neonatal Unit

## Research highlights

In 2025 the neonatal research team continues to support cutting-edge, multicentred trials, looking at emerging technologies and their use in the neonatal population, and implementing new innovative studies on humidification practices and intravenous securement. With strong clinical research outcomes in its seventh year of establishment (over \$10 million in grants and scholarships including nationally competitive schemes). The service continues to be supported by a Research Coordinator role two days a week and a number of local clinical staff (nursing, medical, physiotherapy, etc).

The expertise of local researchers has been recognised in a number of local, national and international speaking roles across medical and nursing disciplines, sharing their knowledge. The team continues strong multidisciplinary collaborations with other institutions (QIMR Berghofer, UQCCR, Griffith University, UQ, HBI, CDSD, UTAS, ACNN, ANZNN, PSANZ, COINN), cementing a reputation for considered, high quality work with innovative technology. Including 3D scanning, heatmaps, near infrared visualisation, wireless EEG to further the quality of care and improve long-term outcomes for vulnerable neonates.

One key achievement for 2025 was the completion and publication of Neonatal Research Priority Setting Study (in partnership with three consumer investigators, the NeoRESQ service and the Sunshine Coast University Hospital). Researchers have supported local practice and education in the translation of research into the clinical area's and building on current evidence-based practice and cultural safety. Areas of focus have included, developmental delay, IV infiltration/securement, seizure detection, feeding for late preterm neonates, palliative transfers culturally welcoming bedding and device related pressure injury prevention.

## Research Awards and Achievements

| Recipient<br>(RBWH staff in bold) | Award                                           | Event                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Stephanie Hall</b>             | New Investigator (Oral) Award- Neonatal Nursing | 2025 Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand (PSANZ) Annual Congress |
| <b>Deanne August</b>              | Metro North Clinician Fellowship                | NA                                                                          |

## Research Grants

| Investigator Names<br>(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 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>G Noreiks, Dr D August, Dr M Lai, Professor M Davies</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Neonatal                           | Humidification management options for infants delivered extremely premature: when and why                                                                                                  | RBWH Foundation Patient Initiative       | \$50,000                        | 1 year<br>2025- 2026                       |
| <b>Dr D August, S de Souza, M Takashima, T Kleidon, Dr P Koorts, L McLaughlin,</b><br>Professor F Coyer, Professor R Ware, Professor A Ullman                                                                                                                                                                 | Neonatal                           | PERipheral iNtravenous catheter GIUe In Newborns: PENGUIN trial                                                                                                                            | Intensive care Foundation                | \$50,000                        | 2 years<br>2025-26                         |
| <b>N Marsh, D August, C O'Brien, N Gavin, L Kearny, J Duff, E Larsen</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Neonatal                           | A point prevalence study of Invasive Medical Devices, Usage and Harm                                                                                                                       | Royal Brisbane and Women's Project Grant | \$14,761                        | 1 year<br>2024-2025                        |
| Professor A Ullman,<br><b>Professor N Marsh, Dr D August, Professor M Davies,</b><br>Professor M Curley,<br>Professor F Coyer, Professor S Keogh,<br><b>Associate Professor L Kearney,</b><br>Associate Professor C McBride, T Kleidon, M Takashima, Dr H Xu, Dr R Cole, Professor R Ware, Professor J Byrnes | Neonatal                           | Building capacity to prevent healthcare harm for hospitalised infants: A Type 1 Hybrid Randomised Controlled trial-Preventing infusAte injuries throughout Child's Hospitalisation (PATCH) | MRFF Clinician Researcher                | \$1.5 Million                   | 3 years<br>2023-2025                       |

| Investigator Names<br>(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 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>Professor F M Coyer</b> ,<br>Professor P R Fulbrook,<br>Professor A J Ullman,<br><b>Professor S J Keogh</b> ,<br><b>Professor J Duff</b> , Assoc<br>Professor D Long, M Barakat-<br>Johnson, <b>Dr D August</b> , L V<br>Jones, Dr H E Carter   | Neonatal                           | Eliminating harm from devices across the life span in critical illness: The DEFENCE study.<br>DEFENCE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | NHMRC- Partnership Project | \$1,499,947                     | 4 years<br>2025-2027                       |
| Professor R Boyd, <b>Dr P Koorts</b> , <b>P Colditz</b> ,<br>Professor I Novak,<br>Professor S Rose, Professor M Fahey,<br>Professor R Hunt, Professor N Badawi, Dr J Fripp, Associate<br>Professor L Sakzewski, Dr M Corbett                      | Neonatal                           | early Prediction of Infant Neurodevelopmental Outcomes using novel biomarkers (ePINO)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | CP Synergy Grant           | \$5M                            | 5 years<br>2023-2027                       |
| Professor A Rumbold, <b>Dr P Koorts</b> . Dr L Yelland,<br>Associate Professor C Collins,<br>Professor M Makrides, Dr A McPhee,<br>Associate Professor A Keir,<br>Dr L Klein, Associate Professor Dr H Afzali, Associate<br>Professor L Grzekowiak | Neonatal                           | Effect of supplementary pasteurised donor milk compared with standard formula on length of neonatal hospital stay, morbidity, breastfeeding, growth, development and health care costs in moderate and late preterm babies-a randomised controlled trial. Giving donor milk Instead of Formula in moderate and late preTerm infants (GIFT) | NHMRC                      | \$2,243,378                     | 5 years<br>2023-2027                       |
| <b>Dr K White, S Hall, M McLean, L Cobbald, A Hopkins</b> (IHLO),<br><b>Dr D August</b>                                                                                                                                                            | Neonatal                           | Welcoming Beds For babies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | RBWH Foundation            | \$10,000                        | 3 years<br>2023-2025                       |
| <b>Dr D August</b> , T. Boissiere-O-<br>Niell, <b>Barker C</b> , <b>Hall S</b> , Wang X,<br>M Takashima, <b>Douglas J</b> ,<br><b>Evans S</b> , <b>White K</b> , Kandasamy<br><b>Y</b> , <b>Marsh N</b>                                            | Neonatal                           | Plastic Chemical Exposure from Medical Devices in Neonates: A Feasibility Study of Clinical Contact and Chemical Burden                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | SERTA                      | \$50,000                        | 2 years<br>2025-2026                       |

## RBWH Department / Research Group Led Research Activity

| Lead Investigator Name<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold)                                                                                         | Other Study Investigators<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold)                               | Research Project Title                                                                    | Consumer involvement | Number of RBWH Patients Recruited |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Dr M Lai</b>                                                                                                                                      | N Stevenson, J Roberts, K Iyer, <b>K White</b> , <b>C Forrest</b> , M Waak, S Malone, L Jones | Electroencephalography in the Neonate (ELITE): Seizure Detection                          |                      | 11                                |
| <b>Dr K White, S Hall, M McLean, L Cobbald, A Hopkins</b> (IHLO), <b>Dr D August</b>                                                                 | Neonatal                                                                                      | Welcoming Beds For babies                                                                 | Consultation         | 4                                 |
| <b>G Noreiks, Dr D August, Dr M Lai, Professor M Davies</b>                                                                                          | Neonatal                                                                                      | Humidification management options for infants delivered extremely premature: when and why | Consultation         | 11                                |
| <b>Dr D August</b> , S de Souza, M Takashima, T Kleidon, <b>Dr P Koorts, L, McLaughlin</b> , Professor F Coyer, Professor R Ware, Professor A Ullman | Neonatal                                                                                      | PEripheral iNtravenous catheter GIUe In Newborns: PENGUIN trial                           | Partnership          | 10                                |

## Collaborative Research Activity Involving RBWH Department / Research Group

| Lead Investigator Name<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold) | Other Study Investigators<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold)                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Research Project Title                                                                                                                                                                         | Consumer involvement | Number of RBWH Patients Recruited |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Dr T Donovan</b>                                          | DL Grzeskowiak, Associate Professor L Smithers, Professor W Ingman, Dr E Knight, Professor L Amir, Associate Professor S Jacobs, Professor R Grivell                                                                                                                     | SUpporting Mothers Milk Intervention Trial (SUMMIT). A randomized controlled trial comparing different doses of Domperidone for treating lactation insufficiency in mothers of preterm infants |                      | 22/22                             |
| <b>Dr P Koorts</b>                                           | Professor R Boyd, Professor I Novak, Professor S Rose, Professor M Fahey, Professor R Hunt, Professor N Badawi, Dr J Fripp, Associate Professor L Sakzewski, Dr M Corbett                                                                                                | early Prediction of Infant Neurodevelopmental Outcomes using novel biomarkers (ePINO)                                                                                                          | Consultation         | 80/115                            |
| Professor A Ullman                                           | <b>Professor N Marsh, Dr D August, Professor M Davies, Professor F Coyer, Professor S Keogh, Associate Professor L Kearney</b> , Professor M Curley, Associate Professor McBride, Ms T Kleidon, Ms M Takashima, Dr H Xu, Dr R Cole, Professor R Ware, Professor J Byrnes | Building capacity to prevent healthcare harm for hospitalised infants: A Type 1 Hybrid Randomised Controlled Trial- Preventing infusAte injuries Throughout Child's Hospitalisation (PATCH)    | Consultation         | 110/110                           |

| Lead Investigator Name<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold) | Other Study Investigators<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold)                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Research Project Title                                                                                 | Consumer involvement | Number of RBWH Patients Recruited |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Dr L McLaughlin</b>                                       | <b>Dr L McLaughlin</b> , Dr K Haakons                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Exploring and understanding the most suitable red cell products for neonates                           | N/A                  | 507                               |
| <b>Dr D August</b>                                           | <b>C Meyles</b> , <b>L Chapple</b> , <b>L Cooke</b> , P de Barros Medeiros, <b>T Donovan</b> , K Effeney, A Jefferies, <b>M Iktioeliagi</b> , <b>S Ison</b> , P Kapadia, <b>P Koorts</b> , <b>M Malivoire</b> , <b>M R McClean</b> , <b>L McKeown</b> , <b>M Lai</b> , L Weber, R Cole | Developing a consumer and clinician led evidence informed research agenda for public neonatal services | Partnership          | N/A                               |

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

| Lead Investigator Name<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold)                                                         | Other Study Investigators<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold) | Research Project Title    | Number of RBWH Patients Recruited |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Dr K White</b> , <b>S Hall</b> , <b>M McLean</b> , <b>L Cobbald</b> , <b>A Hopkins</b> (IHLO), <b>Dr D August</b> | Neonatal                                                        | Welcoming Beds For babies | 4                                 |

## Research Publications

### Authors

| Investigator           | ORCID ID                                                                                  |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Mark Davies</b>     | <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2179-4367">https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2179-4367</a> |
| <b>Deanne August</b>   | <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7204-7065">https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7204-7065</a> |
| <b>Melissa Lai</b>     | <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1970-7247">https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1970-7247</a> |
| <b>Pieter Koorts</b>   | <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7505-2014">https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7505-2014</a> |
| <b>Stephanie Hall</b>  | <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0007-0044">https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0007-0044</a> |
| <b>Margaret McLean</b> | <a href="https://orcid.org/0009-0008-6283-5739">https://orcid.org/0009-0008-6283-5739</a> |
| <b>Janene Douglas</b>  | <a href="https://orcid.org/0009-0003-4521-1717">https://orcid.org/0009-0003-4521-1717</a> |

## Publications in 2025

### Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Jones A, Mongan S, Ullman A, **August D**, Sharpe E, Alderman A, Doellman D, Anders C, Wiseman K, Gillet C, Kim H, Byrnes J. Umbilical Venous Catheter and Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter malposition and tip migration in neonates: a mixed methods cost analysis *J Peri and Neo Nurs* . Nov 2025. doi: 10.1016/j.jnsa.2025.100450

**August D**, **Meyles C**, **Chapple L**, **Cooke L**, de Barros Medeiros P, **Donovan T**, Effeney K, Jefferies A, **Iktioeliagi M**, **Ison S**, Kapadia P, **Koorts P**, **Malivoire M**, **McClean MR**, **McKeown L**, **Lai MM**, Weber L, Cole R: Developing a consumer- and clinician-led evidence-informed research agenda for public neonatal services. *Aust Crit Care (Accepted October)* Oct 2025 doi: 10.1016/j.aucc.2025.101441

Ullmann A, Day T, Doyle R, **Marsh N**, Coyer FM, **August D**, Cole R, **Keogh S**, Klinedon TM, McBride CA, Takashima M, **Xu GH**, **Kearny LN**, Byrnes JM, Thomas C, Rahiman S, Ruppel H, Bonafide C, Gillespie B, Battley C, Gibson V, de Souza S, Doubrovsky A, **Davies M W**, Curley M A. Q., Ware R S: Preventing InfusAte injuries throughout a Child's Hospitalization (PATCH): Study protocol for a type 1 hybrid randomized controlled trial. *Journal of Hospital Medicine* Dec 2025. doi: 10.1002/jhm.70215

## Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

**Kearny L**, Jenkinsen R, **Lehner C**, **Eley V**, **Marsh N**, **August D**, **de Jersey S**, Lee N: Authentic consumer-clinician co-design of an intrapartum intervention to optimise maternal hydration in labour: reaching consensus to enhance rigour. *Health Expectations* Oct 2025. doi: 10.1111/hex.70438

**August D**, deSouza S, Boyer V, Hobson A, Konishi M, **Noreiks G**, Pussell K, Rysavy M, Skelton H, Walker K, Visscher M, Jani P: Skin InteGrity in extreme preterms research NETwork (SIGNET) Collaborative. *J Perinatology* (Accepted September 2025) doi: 10.1038/s41372-025-02487-8

Takashima M, Hyun A, Kleidon T, **August D**, Kuerten Rocha P, Ullman A: Clinical Trials in Central Venous Access Devices: An Evidence and Gap Map. *JAN*.Aug 2025. doi: 10.1111/jan.70160

**Plazina J**, **Melville M**, **Collie L**, **Cooke L**, **August D**: Neonatal cuddle transport for redirection of care-service evaluation. *Nurs Crit Car*. Sep 2025. doi: 10.1111/nicc.70143

**August D**, **Hall S**, **Marsh N**, Chapple L, **Cobbald L**, **Lai M**, Hall D, **Koorts P**, Xu H, Cunninghame J, Hall J, Royal R, Brynes J, Finlayson K, McBride C, Ware R, Coyer F, Ullman A: Measurement and sequelae of neonatal mechanical skin injuries: A prospective diagnostic/feasibility study. *IJW*. Aug 2025. doi: 10.1111/iwj.70745

Rumbold AR, **Lai MM**, **August D**, **Koorts P**, **Donovan T**, Yelland L, Makrides M, Cuthbert A, Klein LD, Ginis T, Al Gharram A, Jones S, Summers L, McPhee A, Keir A: Supplemental use of pasteurised donor human milk versus infant formula in moderate-late preterm infants: a randomised clinical trial, *JAMA Pediatrics*. Oct 2025 doi: 10.1001/jamapediatrics. 2025.2365

Comber E, **August D**, Nguyen L, de Souza S, Ullman A, Byrnes J, and Keogh S, Implementation Frameworks, Strategies and Outcomes in Optimizing CVAD Practice in Neonates: A Scoping Review *Hospital Pediatrics* July 2025 doi: 10.1542/hpeds.2024-008248

de Souza S, Takashima M, Kleidon TM, Comber E, Marsh N, **August D**, Ullman A, Kuerten Rocha P: Effectiveness of tissue adhesive for vascular access devices in paediatrics: Systematic review and meta-analysis protocol. *J Canadian Vascular Access Association*. 2025. doi: 10.5737/va. v19.i1.47

Stoll C, Jani P, Agren J, Bell E, **August D**, Backens C, Rysavy M. Do different approaches to humidifying the incubator impact outcomes for the most preterm infants? *J. Perinatology*. April 2025 doi: 10.1038/s41372-025-02294-1

August D, Byram I, Forrestal D, Desselle M, Stevenson N, Iyer K, Davies MW, White K, Cobbald L, Chapple L, McGrory K, McLean M, Hall S, Schoenmaker B, Clement J, Lai MM: Assessing the feasibility of handheld scanning technologies in neonatal intensive care: Trueness, acceptability, and suitability for personalised medical devices, *Australian Critical Care*. March 2025. doi: 10.1016/j.aucc.2024.09.012

**Hall S**, **Larsen E**, **Cobbald L**, **Marsh N**, **McLaughlin L**, Takashima M, Ware R.S, Ulman A, **August D**: Recurrent peripheral intravenous catheterization in neonates: A case series, *Nursing in Critical Care*. Jan 2025 doi: 10.1111/nicc.13232

**August D**, **Hall S**, **Marsh N**, **Chapple L**, **Cobbald L**, **Lai M.M**, Hall D, **Koorts P**, **Xu H (G)**, **Cunninghame J**, **Hall J**, Royle R, Brynes J, Finlayson K, McBride C, Ware R, Coyer F, Ullman A: Measurement and Sequelae of Neonatal Skin Injuries: A Prospective Diagnostic/Feasibility Study, *International Wound Journal* Aug2025. doi: 10.1111/iwj.70745

## Keynote or Plenary Lectures given in 2025

| Date              | Title                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>March 2025</b> | Concurrent Session (Chair), Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand. <b>Dr. Deanne August</b>                                            |
| <b>June 2025</b>  | Extremely Preterm Baby Care- Global Perspective, Babies by the Beach, Australian College of Neonatal Nurses Seminar. <b>Dr. Deanne August</b> . |
| <b>June 2025</b>  | Skin Integrity Pannel, Babies by the Beach, Australian College of Neonatal Nurses Seminar. <b>Lynette Chapple, Dr Deanne August</b> .           |

# Obstetrics and Gynaecology

## Research highlights

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology aims to provide excellent women-centric care with a specific focus on high-quality tertiary and quaternary obstetrics and gynaecology services for Metro North Health and Queensland.

As part of the expectation as a Centre of Excellence, the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department considers the involvement in high quality translational research is crucial to ensuring the care and management our women and babies receive is world class. Over the last year, the department has focussed on the developed strategies to accelerate and enhance the role of research within the department and within the broader state and national sphere.

The department is involved in several collaborative research and partnerships in line with the strategic directions, and Metro North Health's Research Strategy 2022 - 2027 to encourage collaboration and excellence across the themes of diagnostics, therapeutics and health services.

Maternity Services collaborate closely with the Perinatal Research Centre, The University of Queensland and UQCCR for local state and commonwealth grants and multi-centre research projects. The department has been progressive in the enhancement of research activities in all areas managed within the framework of obstetrics and gynaecology, covering women's health.

The Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department continues to collaborate with numerous other departments within Metro North Health, as well as with UQ, QUT, UQCCR, Mater Hospital, interstate hospitals and New Zealand. There is increasing multidisciplinary interest in being a part of the academic team within the department as the recognition of the impact of clinical research on clinical care and improved outcomes are highlighted.

Led by Dr Akwasi Amoako and Dr Keisuke Tanaka, with the support of the RBWH Foundation, the ongoing research project into the genetics of endometriosis continues to advance. They have established the Endometriosis Research Queensland Study (ERQS), a flagship research platform which underpins a wide-ranging program of clinical research, basic science and translational endometriosis research in Queensland. The quality of the work is strengthened by the diversity of the interdisciplinary team comprising clinician researchers and experts in the fields of genetics, cell and molecular biology, imaging, bioinformatics and computational biology.

It is anticipated that the level of endometriosis research translation will meet the expectations of national and international priorities. The ERQS platform is planned as an innovative, integrated database comprising high-quality, standardised clinical and surgical information populated with linked professionally processed and curated biospecimen repositories. Its purpose will be to provide critical resources for data analysts, clinical and basic scientists to further delineate the challenges in unravelling the disease process and management of endometriosis.

As an obstetrician and MFM specialist, Associate Professor Chris Lehner has been instrumental in driving the involvement of the department in several multisite research projects. The SEEK project was successfully pitched in 2025 and was awarded \$3,000,000 for a 6-year trial developing education, empowerment and knowledge for women as a follow on from the successful Safer Baby Bundle project which has now been incorporated into standard antenatal care. This project will commence in 2026.

The Maternal Fetal Medicine (MFM) unit continues to be active in fostering an environment conducive to research nationally and internationally. Currently, Professor Sailesh Kumar and his team are involved in an NHMRC project over 4 years aimed at the reduction of smoking in pregnancy through counselling and embedded technology. This comes to completion in 2026. The MFM unit are also co-investigators in a multicentric international trial assessing the impact of antenatal steroids given prior to elective caesarean section on neonatal respiratory morbidity and glycaemic control.

To further enhance the department's participation with research, the WNS plans to develop a "live" dashboard whereby research project updates can be logged and be more visible in real time. Additionally, the WNS will schedule annually, a research symposium within the education framework to highlight achievements.

Also, the WNS is hopeful in securing a positive response to developing a local Australian Gynaecological Endoscopy & Surgery (AGES) training fellowship program, which should pave the way for future gynaecological research projects.

## 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 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|---------|
| Keisuke Tanaka<br> | PhD                        | Regulation of the endocannabinoid system in the endometrium across menstrual cycle and implications in endometriosis | October 2025    | The University of Queensland |         |

## 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 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Seed E, <b>Kearney L</b> , Becuzzi N, <b>Lehner C</b> , Jenkinson B, Ballard E, <b>Sekar R</b>                                                                             | Obstetrics & Gynaecology           | OptiMising induction of labour care. Low-dose, oral misoprostol versus standard care [OptiMise]: A feasibility study                                                                   | RBWH Foundation | \$49,651                        | 2 years, 2024-2025                         |
| Andrews C, Ah Chee V, Boule F, Bradfield Z, Davies-Tuck M, Deane K, Flenady V, Gordon A, Hespe C, Kelly J, <b>Lehner C</b> , Payne S, Pollock D, Stuart-Butler D, Tindal K | Obstetrics & Gynaecology           | Safer Baby (SEEK): Strengths-based Education, Empowerment and Knowledge for help-seeking during pregnancy                                                                              | MRFF            | \$ 2,999,873                    | 6 years, 2025-2030                         |
| Tarnow-Mordi W, Popat H, Keir A, Aziz K, Lui K, <b>Lehner C</b> , Gordon A, <b>Kumar S</b> , Robledo K, Polglase G, Bonney D, Mattin M, Strunk T, Spotswood N              | Obstetrics & Gynaecology           | Delayed Cord Clamping in babies born before 37 weeks gestation to prevent anaemia, death and disability (WAMM – Wait a Minute or More): a pragmatic stepped-wedge implementation trial | MRFF            | \$2,975,546                     | 4 years, 2023-2026                         |
| <b>Kumar S</b> , Catling C, D Hartz, Thornton L, Sinha K, Murray C, Eapen V, Wilton K                                                                                      | Obstetrics and Gynaecology         | BUBs Quit Study: clinical Midwife Specialist to assist pregnant women to quit smoking using counselling and embedded technology                                                        | NHMRC           | \$1,245,562                     | 5 years, 2022-2026                         |

| Investigator Names<br>(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 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Said J, <b>Sekar R</b>                                                                                                     | Obstetrics and Gynaecology               | The C*STEROID Trial. Antenatal corticosteroids prior to planned caesarean section delivery from 35+0 to 39+6 weeks gestation; a randomised controlled trial assessing the effects on neonatal respiratory morbidity and glycaemic control. | MRFF                                            | \$2,151,495                     | 6 Years, 2021-2027                         |
| NLin A, Eley V, O'Brien E, Collins G, Kelley A, <b>Lehner C</b> , Johnston L, Hoy S, Aladhami N, Woods C, <b>Kearney L</b> | WNS Pharmacy/ Obstetrics and Gynaecology | Self-administration of non-opioid oral analgesia post-caesarean delivery: a consumer co-designed implementation project                                                                                                                    | RBWH Foundation                                 | \$44,310                        | 2 years, 2024-2025                         |
| <b>Amoako A</b>                                                                                                            | Obstetrics and Gynaecology               | Evaluation of the Novel Imaging Modality Integrated PET/MRI in the Diagnosis, Staging and Prognosis of Endometriosis                                                                                                                       | Queensland Health Clinical Research Fellowships | \$249,972                       | 4 years, 2023–2026                         |
| McKinnon B, <b>Amoako A</b>                                                                                                | Obstetrics and Gynaecology               | Identifying endometriosis risk and disease variability by mapping endometrial stem cell maturation                                                                                                                                         | NHMRC IDEAS Grants                              | \$981,387                       | 3 years, 2023–2025                         |
| <b>Amoako A</b> , McKinnon B, Montgomery G, Martin A, Mortlock S, Olson R, McGree J                                        | Obstetrics and Gynaecology               | Designing an Australian National Adaptive Platform Trial for Endometriosis                                                                                                                                                                 | MRFF                                            | \$299,920                       | 1 year, 2025 - 2026                        |

## RBWH Department / Research Group Led Research Activity

| Lead Investigator Name<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold) | Other Study Investigators<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold)                     | Research Project Title                                                                                               | Consumer involvement | Number of RBWH Patients Recruited |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Amoako A</b>                                              | <b>Amoako A</b> , McKinnon B, Montgomery G, Martin A, Mortlock S, Olson R, McGree J | Designing an Australian National Adaptive Platform Trial for Endometriosis                                           |                      | N/A                               |
| <b>Amoako A</b>                                              |                                                                                     | Evaluation of the Novel Imaging Modality Integrated PET/MRI in the Diagnosis, Staging and Prognosis of Endometriosis |                      | 25                                |

## Collaborative Research Activity Involving RBWH Department / Research Group

| Lead Investigator Name<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold) | Other Study Investigators<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold)                     | Research Project Title                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Consumer involvement | Number of RBWH Patients Recruited |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Lehner C</b>                                              | <b>Kearney L</b>                                                                    | Delayed Cord Clamping in babies born before 37 weeks gestation to prevent anaemia, death and disability (WAMM – Wait a Minute or More): a pragmatic stepped-wedge implementation trial                                                     | Consultation         | N/A                               |
| <b>Sekar R</b>                                               | <b>Duncan P</b>                                                                     | The C*STEROID Trial. Antenatal corticosteroids prior to planned caesarean section delivery from 35+0 to 39+6 weeks gestation; a randomised controlled trial assessing the effects on neonatal respiratory morbidity and glycaemic control. |                      | 13                                |
| Kalansuriya D                                                | <b>Sekar R</b>                                                                      | CMV – a deafening epidemic (Part 1B Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Study)                                                                                                                                                             |                      | N/A                               |
| <b>Amoako A</b>                                              | <b>Amoako A</b> , McKinnon B, Montgomery G, Martin A, Mortlock S, Olson R, McGree J | Designing an Australian National Adaptive Platform Trial for Endometriosis                                                                                                                                                                 |                      | n/a                               |

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

| Lead Investigator Name<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold) | Other Study Investigators<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold)      | Research Project Title                                                                                                      | Number of RBWH Patients Recruited |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Lehner C</b>                                              | <b>Langston-Cox A</b> , <b>Kearney L</b> , <b>Amoako A</b> , Payne M | <i>Towards Term</i> : reducing preterm birth amongst First Nations women attending midwifery group practice: a pilot study" | N/A                               |

## Research Publications

| Investigator     | ORCID ID            |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Christoph Lehner | 0000-0001-8466-0273 |
| Keisuke Tanaka   | 0000-0001-8958-0731 |
| Akwasi Amoako    | 0000-0002-9428-650X |
| Rebecca Kimble   | 0000-0001-9044-194X |

## Publications in 2025

### Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Newnham J, Vernon B, Ward S, Brown K, **Lehner C**, Kane S, Rolnik D, Atkinson H, McKenzie L, Berman Y, Doherty D, White S, Nicholl M, Ellwood D, Watson D, Rehayem A, Hopkinson D, Orefice R, Crean R, Middleton P, Poprzeczny A, Edwards L, Dennis A, Kelly A, Bones K, Morris J: "Reducing rates of preterm and early-term singleton births safely in Australia: results of the national prevention programme", *The Lancet Obstetrics, Gynaecology, & Women's Health*, 1(4), e291-e301. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanogw.2025.100042>

## Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

**Kumar S**, Tarnow-Mordi W, Mol B, Flenady V, Liley H, Badawi N, Walker S, Hyett J, Seidler A, Callander E, Simes J, O'Connell R, Ghadge A, Lennon J, Kim G, Friedmann R, Wheeler P, Da Costa F, Kristensen K, Giles-Clark H, **Lehner C**, Said J, Lynch L, Mohamed K, Jarrett K, Kay H, Ryan B, Swift E, Wood J, Fitzpatrick E, Rosswell G, **Triggs T**, Rosser S, Pennell C, Grace T, Nugent R, Burke N, Shand A, Aleshin O, Kane S, Whitehead C, De Vries B, Rivera C, iSEARCH Investigators: "Intrapartum Sildenafil to Improve Perinatal Outcomes: A Randomized Clinical Trial", JAMA 2025 Jul 8;334(2):149-159

Willims R, Sullivan H, Ross L, Guthrie T, **Wolski P**, **Craven AM**, **Lehner C**, **Callaway L**, **Eley V**, MacLaughlin HL, **De Jersey S**: "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 Dec;65(6):838-847. doi: 10.1111/ajo.70041

**Kearney L**, Jenkinson B, **Lehner C**, **Eley V**, **Marsh N**, **August D**, **De Jersey S**, Lee N: "Authentic consumer-clinician co-design of an intrapartum intervention to optimize maternal hydration in labour: reaching consensus to enhance rigour", Health Expect. 2025 Oct;28(5): e70438. doi: 10.1111/hex.70438.

Kalansuriya D, Roberts J, Britton S, **Kimble RMN**: Pregnancy after repaired Bladder Extrophy: a case report, Case Rep Womens Health. 2025 Jul 18;47: e00734. doi: 10.1016/j.crw. 2025.e00734

Barlow K, **RMN Kimble** et al: Mild traumatic brain injury/ concussion and persisting post-concussion symptoms: New Guidelines to support evidence -based assessment and management in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, Med J Aust. 2025 Nov 3;223(9):446-449. doi: 10.5694/mja2.70082.

Jenkinson B, Gray L, Sketcher-Baker K, **Kimble R**: Partnering with the woman who declines recommended maternity care: Development of a statewide guideline in Queensland, Australia. Australian and New Zealand Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology e-publication 11 September 2024 DOI:10.1111/ajo.13889

Kelly ML, Fullerton A, Cao A, Colbran R, **Kimble R**, Clark DA: Pregnancy and stomas: a 9-year retrospective series at a major metropolitan hospital in Brisbane, Queensland. ANZ J Surg. 2024 Sep;94(9):1617-1621.doi: 10.1111/ans.19142.

**Tanaka K**, **Amoako A**, Mortlock S, Rogers P, Holdsworth-Carson S, Donoghue J, Teh W, Montgomery G, McKinnon B: The influence of genetics on the endocannabinoid system gene expression and relevance for targeting reproductive conditions. J Cannabis Res. 2025 May 29;7(1):29. doi: 10.1186/s42238-025-00275-x.

**Tanaka K**, Subramaniam S, Atluri S, **Amoako A**, Mortlock S, Montgomery G, and McKinnon B (2025). Endometrial cell-type specific regulation of the endocannabinoids system and the impact of menstrual cycle and endometriosis. Cannabis Cannabinoid Res. 2025 Aug;10(4):512-526. doi: 10.1089/can.2024.0081

## Keynote or Plenary Lectures given in 2025

| Date               | Title                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>March 2025</b>  | Every Week Counts and Making Every Kilometre Count. PSANZ Annual Congress. <b>Chris Lehner</b>                                                             |
| <b>March 2025</b>  | Queensland Update – The Australian Preterm Birth Prevention Alliance” Pre-PSANZ Annual Congress. <b>Chris Lehner</b>                                       |
| <b>August 2025</b> | Universal preterm preeclampsia screening in Australia – what will it take? Every Week Counts Collaborative, Learning Session 2 Sydney. <b>Chris Lehner</b> |
| <b>May 2025</b>    | The new kid on the block: Preterm Preeclampsia Screening. Every Week Counts Collaborative, Learning Session 1 Brisbane. <b>Chris Lehner</b>                |

# Obstetric Medicine

## Research highlights

Obstetric medicine has had particular achievements in research this year with two research awards, including at the 2025 Australian Consumer Partnership in Research Awards to the RADIANT investigation team.

In research grants, team members were awarded grants in excess of \$8 million, including two NHMRC grants, and a MRFF National critical infrastructure initiative grant.

The team published 21 manuscripts in peer reviewed journals.

## Research Awards and Achievements

| Recipient<br>(RBWH staff in bold)                                                                        | Award                                                                                                                                               | Event                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| RADIANT investigator team:<br>Jenkinson B, <b>Callaway L</b> , <b>Kearney L</b> , Ahlia Griffiths, et al | Winner: Excellence in Participant Experience<br>Runner up: People's Choice Award for Excellence in Consumer Partnership in Non-commercial Research. | 2025 Australian Consumer Partnership in Research Awards |
| <b>McKeown L</b>                                                                                         | Cecilia Brazil Nursing and Midwifery Research Award Highly Commended                                                                                | Herston Health Precinct Symposium                       |

## Research Grants

| Investigator Names<br>(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 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>Pervin S</b> , Reid N, Chan, Gary CK, <b>Kearney L</b> , Kumar S, <b>Callaway L</b>                                                             | Obstetric Medicine                      | Perinatal Cannabis uses in urban Australian women: implications for pregnancy and neonatal outcomes.               | Queensland Health Targeted Clinical Research Fellowships (TCRF) | \$123,999                                     | 2 Years<br>2025 - 2027                     |
| <b>Callaway L</b> , <b>V Eley</b> , Kothari A, <b>S de Jersey</b> , Jenkinson B, <b>Kearney L</b>                                                  | Obstetric Medicine                      | <b>ELEVATE</b> - Consumer co-design of a multi-component intervention to promote weight inclusive maternity care   | RBWH Foundation                                                 | \$50,000                                      | 1 Year<br>2025                             |
| Jenkinson B, Griffiths A, <b>Callaway L</b> , <b>Kearney L</b> , Hill B, Hocking J, Boyle J, Cawthorne T, Mason Z, Tome R, Hewett L, Waganikalou B | Obstetric Medicine                      | Weight-inclusive maternity care: Codesigning best practice principles with women, clinicians, and key stakeholders | WHRTN Co-Production Grant Scheme                                | \$252,000                                     | 3 years<br>2023-2025                       |
| Jenkinson B, Griffiths A, <b>Callaway L</b> , <b>Kearney L</b> , Hill B, Hocking J, Boyle J, Cawthorne T, Mason Z, Tome R, Hewett L, Waganikalou B | Obstetric Medicine                      | Weight inclusive maternity care: Codesigning best practice principles with women, clinicians and key stakeholders  | Health and Wellbeing Queensland Grant, matched to WHRTN grant   | \$50,000                                      | 3 years<br>2023-2025                       |
| Sullivan C, Thomas R, <b>de Jersey S</b> , <b>Callaway L</b>                                                                                       | Obstetric Medicine/Clinical Informatics | NINA: National Infrastructure for federated learning in Digital health                                             | MRFF National Critical Infrastructure Initiative                | \$6,012,048 (MRFF) and \$2,597,965 (non MRFF) | 6 years<br>2023-2028                       |

| Investigator Names<br>(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 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Mamun A, Sly P, Yaqoot F, Thomas K, Boyle F, <b>Callaway L</b>                                                                                            | Obstetric Medicine/Multi institutional                                           | Trihalomethanes in pregnancy and birth outcomes in Queensland: integrated data analysis and case studies for better policy and health outcomes. | NHMRC         | \$522,284                       | 6 years<br>2020-2025                       |
| Skouteris H, Teede H, Boyle J, Moran L, Thangaratnam S, Hills A, Venn A, Jack B, Norman R, Ademi Delaney Z, <b>Callaway L</b> , (Chair of Advisory Group) | Obstetric Medicine/Centre for Research Excellence in Preconception and Pregnancy | Prevention of Maternal Obesity                                                                                                                  | NHMRC         | \$2,496,527                     | 6 years<br>2019-2025                       |

### RBWH Department / Research Group Led Research Activity

| Lead Investigator Name<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold) | Other Study Investigators<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold) | Research Project Title                                                                                          | Consumer involvement | Number of RBWH Patients Recruited |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Lust K</b>                                                | <b>Parsonage W, Tanner H, Minuzzo L, Burns K</b>                | Pregnancy Outcomes in Women with Cardiac Disease in pregnancy                                                   |                      | N/A                               |
| <b>Parsonage W</b>                                           | Malatzky C, Kularatna S, Boyle S, <b>Lust K</b>                 | Mapping the patient journey of pregnant women with heart diseases in Queensland, Australia: A qualitative study |                      | N/A                               |

### Collaborative Research Activity Involving RBWH Department / Research Group

| Lead Investigator Name<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold) | Other Study Investigators<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold) | Research Project Title                                                                                                                                                               | Consumer involvement | Number of RBWH Patients Recruited |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Callaway L</b>                                            | <b>Tanner H</b>                                                 | A Phase 2 Randomized, Proof of Concept Study to Evaluate the Safety, Tolerability, and Efficacy of NGM120 in Pregnant Women with Severe Nausea and Vomiting (Hyperemesis Gravidarum) |                      | 0                                 |

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

| Lead Investigator Name<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold) | Other Study Investigators<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold) | Research Project Title                                                                                                                                                       | Number of RBWH Patients Recruited |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Mamun AA, Hasan M, Ward J,                                   | <b>Callaway L, Pervin S</b>                                     | Assessing perinatal outcomes among Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians: An integrated analysis of linked data to support achieving the national Closing the Gap target | N/A                               |

| Lead Investigator Name<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold) | Other Study Investigators<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold) | Research Project Title                                                                                                                    | Number of RBWH Patients Recruited                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Callaway L                                                   | Kearney L, Giudice S, Denaro T, Pervin S                        | Maternal and Neonatal Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women Birthing in Metro North Health: Outcomes and opportunities | No active recruitment – accessing PDC retrospective cohort |

## Research Publications

### Authors

| Investigator    | ORCID ID                                                                                  |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Leonie Callaway | <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0137-9935">https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0137-9935</a> |
| Helen Tanner    | <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2066-4862">https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2066-4862</a> |
| Karin Lust      | <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6536-7191">https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6536-7191</a> |
| Penny Wolski    | <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9127-2049">https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9127-2049</a> |
| Fiona Britten   | <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0148-7442">https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0148-7442</a> |
| Lisa McKeown    | <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1457-2320">https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1457-2320</a> |
| Sonia Pervin    | <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2160-2046">https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2160-2046</a> |

### Publications in 2025

#### Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Gribble KD, **Callaway L**, Raven M, Smith JP, Gamble J, Dahlen HG. Sex, gender identity and women's health research and equality: An urgent need for clarity of language and accurate data collection. *Women Birth*. 2025 Jan;38(1):101854. doi: 10.1016/j.wombi.2024.101854.

**Shipton EV**, Foxcroft K, **de Jersey SJ**, **Callaway L**, Lee N. "Butterflies in the air, you're now a breastfeeding mother": A qualitative study of women's experiences receiving postnatal midwifery breastfeeding support. *Women Birth*. 2025 Jan;38(1):101859. doi: 10.1016/j.wombi.2024.101859.

Elvidge E, Murphy VE, Rao M, Gibson PG, McLaughlin K, Robijn A, Jensen ME, **Callaway LK**, Attia J, Hensley M, Giles W, Peek M, Barrett H, Seeho S, Mattes J, Abbott A, Bisits A, McCaffery K, Colditz PB, Searles A, Ramanathan SA. What are the broader impacts and value from a randomised controlled trial conducted in six public hospital antenatal clinics in Australia? An impact assessment using the Framework to Assess the Impact from Translational health research. *BMJ Open*. 2025 Mar 26;15(3):e082795. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2023-082795. PMID: 40139706; PMCID: PMC11950953.

**Eley VA**, Navarro S, Martin E, **Amoako A**, Hartel G, Woods C, Lu Y, Lipman J, Roberts J, Tang M, **Callaway L**. Cefazolin versus placebo for surgical antibiotic prophylaxis in low-risk cesarean delivery: a feasibility blinded randomized controlled trial. *BMC Pregnancy Childbirth*. 2025 Mar 26;25(1):353. doi: 10.1186/s12884-025-07484-5. PMID: 40140987; PMCID: PMC11938549.

Vanderpeet CL, Dorey ES, Neal ES, Mullins T, McIntyre DH, **Callaway LK**, Barrett HL, Dekker Nitert M, Cuffe JSM. Dietary Fibre Modulates Gut Microbiota in Late Pregnancy Without Altering SCFA Levels, and Propionate Treatment Has No Effect on Placental Explant Function. *Nutrients*. 2025 Apr 1;17(7):1234. doi:10.3390/nu17071234. PMID: 40218992; PMCID: PMC11990268.

**About L**, **Tanner H**, **Parsonage W**, **Lust K**, **Callaway L**. Haemorrhagic and thromboembolic outcomes in pregnant patients with mechanical heart valves who undergo interruption of anticoagulation for birth - A case series. *Aust N Z J Obstet Gynaecol*. 2025 Apr;65(2):269-276. doi: 10.1111/ajo.13897.

Nugent R, de Costa C, **Callaway L**, **Kearney L**. Maternity care experiences of women with a BMI > 35 kg/m<sup>2</sup>: An interpretive phenomenological analysis. *Women Birth*. 2025 May;38(3):101900. doi: 10.1016/j.wombi.2025.101900.

Andreatidis B, Weber N, **Craven AM**, **Duke M**, **Callaway L**, **Eccles-Smith J**. Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura in pregnancy: A case report and literature review. *Obstet Med*. 2025 Jun 3;1753495X251338163. doi: 10.1177/1753495X251338163.

## Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Nugent R, de Costa C, **Callaway L**, Erigadoo S, Gilbertson E, Brown C, Perry-Keene J, Shakhovskoy R, **Kearney L**. Continuous positive airway pressure versus usual care for obstructive sleep apnoea in pregnancy: a two-step pilot trial. Pilot Feasibility Stud. 2025 Jun 5;11(1):79. doi: 10.1186/s40814-025-01645-1. PMID: 40474294; PMCID: PMC12139340.

**McKeown L, Pervin S, Burke K**, Cobham VE, Foxcroft K, **Callaway L**. Post-traumatic stress disorder specific to parents in the neonatal intensive care unit. Aust Crit Care. 2025 Jul;38(4):101257. doi: 10.1016/j.aucc.2025.101257.

Eden R, Chukwudi I, Bain C, Barbieri S, **Callaway L, de Jersey S**, George Y, Gorse AD, Lawley M, Marendy P, McPhail SM, Nguyen A, Samadbeik M, Sullivan C. A scoping review of the governance of federated learning in healthcare. NPJ Digit Med. 2025 Jul 10;8(1):427. doi: 10.1038/s41746-025-01836-3. PMID: 40640574; PMCID: PMC12246253.

Carter HE, Donovan T, White NM, Lee XJ, Brown C, Graves N, McPhail S, Cardona M, White BP, Willmott L, Harvey G, **Callaway L**, Hillman K, Barnett AG. A cost-consequence analysis of a nudge intervention to improve hospital care of older people at the end of life: results from a stepped-wedge cluster randomised trial. Age Ageing. 2025 Aug 29;54(10):afaf280. doi: 10.1093/ageing/afaf280. MID: 41052263; PMCID: PMC12499750.

**Frost J**, Weaver E, **Callaway L**. Red tape delays maternal morbidity study: problems and possible solutions. Aust Health Rev. 2025 Aug;49:AH25018. doi: 10.1071/AH25018. PMID: 40784678.

Khalesi H, Jenkinson B, **Kearney L, Callaway L**, Hill B. Understanding larger-bodied women's experiences of maternity care: A pilot evaluation of the feasibility and acceptability of an online photovoice approach. Midwifery. 2025 Sep;148:104534. doi: 10.1016/j.midw.2025.104534.

**Frost J**, Weaver E, **Callaway L**. Maternity Healthcare Worker Perspectives of Severe Acute Maternal Morbidity Recording, Reporting and Case Review in Queensland, Australia. Aust N Z J Obstet Gynaecol. 2025 Oct;65(5):607-614. doi: 10.1111/ajo.13945.

Wilson DL, Mann DL, Szollosi I, **Callaway L**, Kothari A, Terrill P. "Sleep on side": Awareness and anxiety around sleeping position during late pregnancy. Women Birth. 2025 Nov;38(6):102121. doi: 10.1016/j.wombi.2025.102121.

Lee N, Barnett B, Kildea S, **Callaway L, Kearney L, Hellyer S**, Mårtensson LB. A qualitative study of clinicians' perspectives on participating in an intrapartum randomised placebo-controlled trial for labour pain relief. Trials. 2025 Nov 25;26(1):547. doi: 10.1186/s13063-025-09257-z. PMID: 41291868; PMCID: PMC12648800.

**Pervin S, Kearney L**, Denaro T, Holzapfel S, Dyer J, Cole PE, Giudice S, **Callaway L**. Effect of Ngarrama maternity service on maternal and neonatal health outcomes for First Nations women in three maternity services: a retrospective cohort study in Australia. Women Birth. 2025 Nov 17;39(1):102132. doi: 10.1016/j.wombi.2025.102132.

Meurk C, Roberts S, Lam M, Wittenhagen L, **Callaway L**, Moss K, Lucke J, Barker R, Waterson E, Malmstrom N, Weaver E, Hoehn E, Heffernan E. Mental Health Profile Relating to Suicide Crises Among Women in and Around Pregnancy and Surgical Termination of Pregnancy: A Data Linkage Study. Birth. 2025 Dec;52(4):699-707. doi: 10.1111/birt.12917.

**Kearney L**, Jenkinson B, Robins A, **Callaway L**, van den Heuvel J, Roussin M, Hill B. Maternity care providers' attitudes and beliefs toward weight and body size during pregnancy: A cross-sectional survey. Sex Reprod Healthc. 2025 Dec;46:101145. doi: 10.1016/j.srhc.2025.101145.

**Shipton, E. V.**, Lee, N., Foxcroft, K., **de Jersey, S. J., Callaway, L.** (2025). 'We've ticked the boxes': A qualitative study of women's experiences receiving antenatal breastfeeding education. Breastfeeding Review 2025, 33(1), 16-28.

van den Heuvel, J, Wallis, K, **Kearney, L, Callaway, L.** The answer is simple, it's be respectful': General practitioner views on reducing weight stigma to improve maternity care. Australian Journal of General Practice 2025-09-01 54 (9).

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

## Keynote or Plenary Lectures given in 2025

| Date                  | Title                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>March 2025</b>     | Vaccination in Pregnancy, - The Vital Role of Perinatal Health Care Workers in RSV prevention, Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand ASM - <b>Karin Lust</b> |
| <b>March 2025</b>     | Session Chair, Beyond Birth: Compassionate Care After Birth Trauma – Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand ASM <b>Professor Leonie Callaway</b>              |
| <b>August 2025</b>    | Women's CV Health: Obstetric Cardiology – Pre-pregnancy Counselling & Contraception. Cardica Society of Australia and New Zealand ASM, <b>Karin Lust</b>              |
| <b>August 2025</b>    | Sex-specific risk factors for heart disease in women, Cardica Society of Australia and New Zealand ASM, <b>Professor Leonie Callaway</b>                              |
| <b>September 2025</b> | Herston Health Precinct Symposium – Keynote Speaker, <b>Professor Leonie Callaway</b>                                                                                 |

# Perinatal Research Centre

## Research highlights

The Perinatal Research Centre (PRC), directed by Professor Paul Colditz, is committed to improving health for mothers and babies through world class biomedical and clinical research. Our multidisciplinary research team, consisting of clinicians, scientists, allied health professionals and engineers, aims to discover and translate research advances into clinical practice and better health outcomes for mothers and babies. Research within the PRC covers several related areas including fetal growth restriction led by Dr Julie Wixey, nutrition and systems physiology led by Dr Yvonne Eiby, impacts of hypertensive disorders of pregnancy led by Dr Bhavisha Bakrania, as well as clinical trials involving the RBWH.

2025 was a successful year for the PRC. We had the opportunity to attend national conferences to showcase our work, including the Fetal and Neonatal Physiological Society Conference in Perth and the Fetal Neonatal Workshop with many students presenting resulting in multiple awards. Our students have received grants this year, including an Ian Potter Foundation grant awarded to PhD student Vicki Hinkley for a high-resolution imaging platform to support the modelling of complex diseases which will commence in 2026. PhD student Hannah Musco continues her project on blood biomarkers in fetal growth restriction where she received a Cerebral Palsy Alliance Research grant.

Dr Yvonne Eiby continues a 3-year NHMRC Ideas grant investigating packed red blood cell transfusion in the hours after preterm birth to support cardiovascular function and improve brain outcomes. Dr Eiby's team also continues work to examine the effects of sulfate deficiency on the preterm brain, also funded by an NHMRC Ideas grant.

Dr Julie Wixey is working on her NHMRC Investigator grant where her team is discovering interesting findings around blood biomarkers of brain injury in fetal growth restriction in addition to examining different neuroprotective strategies with the aim to reduce burden of disability in these infants.

We are working with our collaborators on an NHMRC Synergy Grant focussing on reducing the incidence of cerebral palsy through novel early biomarkers and therapeutic trials. This study is incorporating advanced neuroimaging, genetics, and liquid biopsy, enabling fetal and newborn diagnosis, prognosis, and prediction of treatment responses to prevent, treat and cure cerebral palsy. Our ongoing funding is creating amazing results and media interest, and we look forward to another year of high impact translational research. We would like to thank RBWH Foundation and so many members of the public for their generous support which is vital to improving outcomes for mothers and babies through research.

## Research Awards and Achievements

| Recipient               | Award                                                                | Event                                                     |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Hannah Musco            | Best late candidature presentation                                   | Queensland Perinatal Consortium conference                |
| Vicki Hinkley           | Best student long talk (Late PhD)                                    | Fetal and Neonatal Workshop                               |
| Hannah Musco            | Best student short talk (Late PhD)                                   | Fetal and Neonatal Workshop                               |
| Gemma Chavarria Ventura | Best student long talk (Early PhD)                                   | Fetal and Neonatal Workshop                               |
| Hannah Musco            | Runner up                                                            | UQCCR 3MT competition                                     |
| Vicki Hinkley           | Outstanding Contributions to student learning                        | Australian Awards for University Teaching (AAUT)          |
| Vicki Hinkley           | Vice-Chancellor and President's Commendation for Teaching Excellence | University of Sunshine Coast                              |
| Vicki Hinkley           | David Garlick Young Investigator Award                               | Australian & New Zealand Microcirculation Society Meeting |
| Ella Bartlett           | Best presentation – session 1                                        | Brain, Neurology and Mental Health Showcase               |
| Hannah Musco            | Best presentation – session 2                                        | Brain, Neurology and Mental Health Showcase               |
| Bhuvana Harishankar     | Publication of the month, December                                   | UQCCR                                                     |
| Hannah Musco            | Outstanding PhD Student of the Year                                  | UQCCR 2025 Directors Awards                               |
| Kirat Chand             | Mid-Career Researcher Supervisor of the Year                         | UQCCR 2025 Directors Awards                               |

## Research Grants

| Investigator Names<br>(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 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Wixey J, <b>Colditz P</b> , Bjorkman ST, Chand K, Patel J, Khosrotehrani K                                      | Perinatal Research Centre          | Long-term protection in the growth restricted newborn                                                                         | Research Foundation of Cerebral Palsy Alliance grant | \$200,000                       | 5 years, 2021-2025                         |
| Eapen V, Liaw S-T, Pritchard M, Lingam R, Woolfenden S, Jalaludin B, Page A, Kohlhoff J, Scott J, Lawson K      | Perinatal Research Centre          | Watch Me Grow: Changing practice to improve Universal Child Health and Developmental Surveillance in the primary care setting | NHMRC Partnership Grant                              | \$1.1M                          | 6 years, 2019-2025                         |
| Boyd R, Novak I, Rose S, Fahey M, <b>Colditz P</b> , Hunt R, Badawi N, Sakzewski L, Corbett M, Comans T, Gecz J | Perinatal Research Centre          | Cerebral Palsy Synergy Network to Protect, Repair and improve outcomes (ePINO)                                                | NHMRC Synergy Grant                                  | \$5M                            | 5 years, 2022-2026                         |
| Dawson P, Badawi N, <b>Colditz P</b> , Koorts P, Hurron E, Eiby Y, Bjorkman T, Nestor P                         | Perinatal Research Centre          | Neuroprotective benefit and safety of preterm neonatal sulphate supplementation                                               | NHMRC Ideas Grant                                    | \$966,906                       | 2023-2026                                  |
| Eiby Y, Stark M, Bakrania B, Wixey J, <b>Colditz P</b> , Wright I                                               | Perinatal Research Centre          | Early transfusion to support blood volume in preterm piglets                                                                  | NHMRC Ideas Grant                                    | \$1,032,160                     | 2023-2026                                  |
| Wixey J                                                                                                         | Perinatal Research Centre          | Detection and treatment of brain injury in growth restricted newborns                                                         | NHMRC Investigator grant                             | \$655,000                       | 2023-2027                                  |
| Musco H                                                                                                         | Perinatal Research Centre          | Blood biomarkers to detect brain injury in the growth restricted newborn                                                      | Research Foundation of Cerebral Palsy Alliance grant | \$26,000                        | 2024-2026                                  |

## RBWH Department / Research Group Led Research Activity

| Lead Investigator Name<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold) | Other Study Investigators<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold) | Research Project Title | Consumer involvement | Number of RBWH Patients Recruited |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Paul Colditz</b>                                          | Eiby Y, Wixey J                                                 | NeoBRAIN               |                      |                                   |

## Research Publications

### Authors

| Investigator     | ORCID ID                                                                                  |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Paul Colditz     | <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6408-8238">https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6408-8238</a> |
| Tim Donovan      | <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4710-0186">https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4710-0186</a> |
| Melissa Lai      | <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1970-7247">https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1970-7247</a> |
| Barbara Lingwood | <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8143-2707">https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8143-2707</a> |

### Publications in 2025

#### Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

- Forrest CD**, Biagioni T, Liley HG, **Lai MM**, **Colditz PB**, Ware RS, Boyd RN, Roberts JA. Combined Use of Electroencephalography and Magnetic Resonance Imaging in the Prognostication of Neurodevelopmental Outcomes in Preterm Infants - A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *Pediatr Neurol*. 2025 Nov 13;175:116-129. doi: 10.1016/j.pediatrneurol.2025.11.005.
- Urriola J, Pannek K, Bradford D, Fripp J, Trinder J, Mistry K, **Colditz PB**, Boyd R, Bora S, George JM, Pagnozzi AM. Altered functional brain organisation in preterm Children: Motor task and resting-state fMRI findings at six years. *Neuroimage Clin*. 2025;48:103906. doi: 10.1016/j.nicl.2025.103906.
- Kwong AK, Eeles AL, Anderson PJ, Arunanthony S, Badawi N, Boyd RN PhD, Cameron KL, **Colditz PB**, Crowle C, Dale R, Doyle LW, George JM, **Koorts PJ**, Lee KJ, Luke CR, McNamara L, Morgan C, Novak I, Olsen JE, Reid NG, Scuffham P, Whittingham K, Cheong JL, Spittle AJ. Early high risk of cerebral palsy classification is predictive of cerebral palsy at 2 years: an implementation cohort study. *Arch Dis Child*. 2025 Dec 15;111(1):76-83. doi: 10.1136/archdischild-2025-329242.
- Pagnozzi AM, Pannek K, Boyd RN, van Eijk L, George JM, Bora S, Bradford D, Fahey M, Ditchfield M, Malhotra A, **Colditz PB**, Fripp J. Brain MRI before and at term equivalent age predicts motor and cognitive outcomes in very preterm infants. *Neuroimage Rep*. 2025 Apr 19;5(2):100262. doi: 10.1016/j.ynirp.2025.100262.
- Williamson AE, Boyd RN, Ware RS, Chatfield MD, Hough JL, **Colditz PB**, George JM. Predicting neurodevelopment in very preterm infants using the Test of Infant Motor Performance. *Early Hum Dev*. 2025 Jul;206:106271. doi: 10.1016/j.earlhumdev.2025.106271.
- Elvidge E, Murphy VE, Rao M, Gibson PG, McLaughlin K, Robijn A, Jensen ME, **Callaway LK**, Attia J, Hensley M, Giles W, Peek M, **Barrett H**, Seeho S, Mattes J, Abbott A, Bisits A, McCaffery K, **Colditz PB**, Searles A, Ramanathan SA. What are the broader impacts and value from a randomised controlled trial conducted in six public hospital antenatal clinics in Australia? An impact assessment using the Framework to Assess the Impact from Translational health research. *BMJ Open*. 2025 Mar 26;15(3):e082795. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2023-082795.
- Mistry KH, Bora S, Pannek K, Pagnozzi AM, Fiori S, Guzzetta A, Ware RS, **Colditz PB**, Boyd RN, George JM. Diagnostic accuracy of neonatal structural MRI scores to predict 6-year motor outcomes of children born very preterm. *Neuroimage Clin*. 2025;45:103725. doi: 10.1016/j.nicl.2024.103725.
- Morwood HK, Nguyen TMT, **Lingwood BE**, Bakrania BA, Wright IMR, Eiby YA. Method for early and repeated measurement of blood volume in newborn piglets. *Am J Physiol Heart Circ Physiol*. 2025 Nov 1;329(5):H1174-H1179. doi: 10.1152/ajpheart.00428.2025.
- Staehr C, Hinkley V, Matchkov VV, Rajanathan R, Hansen LMB, Eiby Y, Luque N, Wright I, Bjorkman ST, Miller SM, Grimley RS, Dettrick A, Chand K, Nguyen HL, Jones NM, Murphy TV, Sandow SL. Hypoxia and ischemic stroke modify cerebrovascular tone by upregulating endothelial BK(Ca) channels-Lessons from rat, pig, mouse, and human. *Acta Physiol (Oxf)*. 2025 Apr;241(4):e70030. doi: 10.1111/apha.70030.
- Paton MCB, Benders M, Blatch-Williams R, Dallimore E, Edwards A, Elwood N, Facer K, Finch-Edmondson M, Garrity N, Gordon A, Hunt RW, Jenkin G, McDonald CA, Moore J, Nold MF, Novak I, Popat H, Salomon C, Sato Y, Tolcos M, Wixey JA, Yawno T, Zhou L, Malhotra A. Updates on neonatal cell and novel therapeutics: Proceedings of the Second Neonatal Cell Therapies Symposium (2024). *Pediatr Res*. 2025 Sep;98(3):777-785. doi: 10.1038/s41390-025-03856-x.
- Xu N, Wixey J, Chand K, Wong M, Nance E. Nano-formulated curcumin uptake and biodistribution in the fetal growth restricted newborn piglet brain. *Drug Deliv Transl Res*. 2025 Mar 7. doi: 10.1007/s13346-025-01830-y.
- Harishankar B, Chand KK, **Colditz PB**, Wixey JA. Foetal Growth Restriction Effects on Grey and White Matter in the Prefrontal Cortex and Basal Ganglia of Postnatal Day 10 Piglets. *Cells*. 2025 Nov 12;14(22):1776. doi: 10.3390/cells14221776.

## Keynote or Plenary Lectures given in 2025

| Date             | Title                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sept 2025</b> | <b>Paul Colditz.</b> Invited speaker, Australia New Zealand Child Neurology Annual Scientific meeting, Brisbane. Hypoxic ischaemic encephalopathy. |
| <b>Oct 2025</b>  | <b>Paul Colditz.</b> Keynote speaker, West Moreton HHS Annual Research meeting. How to get ahead in research.                                      |

# Queensland Centre for Gynaecological Cancer

## Research highlights

The Queensland Centre for Gynaecological Cancer Research (QCGC) is dedicated to advancing the standard of care for women with gynaecological cancers through high-quality, rigorous research. Our mission is to provide innovative and alternative treatment options for women diagnosed with cancer, while also deepening our understanding of disease causes, supporting prevention strategies, and improving treatment outcomes and quality of life. In 2025, we expanded our focus to include various types of gynaecological cancers: uterine, ovarian, and vulvar cancer through collaboration with national and international organisations.

In 2025, we expanded our focus to include various types of gynaecological cancers: uterine, ovarian, and vulvar cancer through collaboration with national and international organisations.

Within uterine cancer research, we continued recruitment and engagement in the ENDO3 trial, a multicentre Phase III randomised surgical study sponsored by The University of Queensland, evaluating the role of sentinel lymph node biopsy in endometrial cancer. We also continued the EN10 study at RBWH, an international multicentre Phase II clinical trial investigating de-escalated adjuvant therapy for patients with POLE-mutated or p53 wild-type/no specific molecular profile (NSMP) early-stage endometrial cancer.

In 2025, we enrolled our first participant in the newly launched SATELLITE study, a national, multicentre, Phase 2b open-label, single-arm feasibility trial evaluating the efficacy, safety, and tolerability of dostarlimab in women with early-stage mismatch repair (MMR)-deficient endometrioid endometrial adenocarcinoma. Sponsored by The University of Queensland, the SATELLITE study is being conducted in collaboration with Women's & Newborn Services and the Cancer Care Unit. The study aims to provide an alternative treatment option for women of reproductive age who wish to preserve their fertility, and RBWH was the first site to enrol a patient into this trial.

In 2025, in collaboration with Pathology Queensland, we published a study in *The American Journal of Surgical Pathology* quantifying the interobserver variability between trial-site pathologists and central pathology review for endometrial specimens obtained prior to treatment with the levonorgestrel intrauterine device (LNG-IUD), and at 3- and 6-months post-treatment, as part of the feMMe Phase II randomised clinical trial.

The findings demonstrated a high rate of interobserver variability in the diagnosis of endometrial hyperplasia and endometrial adenocarcinoma, both before and following progestin therapy, in specimens collected within a clinical trial setting. These results underscore the importance of diagnostic confirmation by a specialist gynaecologic pathologist and highlight the value of directly comparing post-progestin treatment specimens with the original pretreatment biopsy to ensure diagnostic accuracy and optimal patient management.

In 2025, the Pre-ANVU and NODE studies two active clinical trials in vulvar cancer, recruited a total of 11 participants from RBWH. Considering the rarity of vulvar cancer, this level of enrolment represents a notable achievement and highlights the sustained commitment to progressing research in this uncommon malignancy.

The results of the MOST study were published in *Annals of Oncology* in 2025. This multicentre Australian study evaluated a three-monthly, nurse-led follow-up model delivered via telehealth for women with ovarian cancer. The intervention incorporated monitoring of serum CA125 and other tumour markers, alongside patient-reported outcomes using the MOST (Measure of Ovarian Symptoms and Treatment Concerns) tool. The study demonstrated that a higher proportion of patients allocated to the nurse-led follow-up model reported improved emotional well-being (EWB) compared with those receiving routine follow-up. A total of 38 participants were enrolled across six Australian sites, with 17 participants recruited from RBWH, highlighting RBWH's strong contribution to this nationally published research.

In 2025, recruitment for the ACUMEN Trial was successfully completed. This study aims to enhance physical and mental health-related quality of life in women treated for gynaecological cancer by fostering sustainable, lifelong exercise habits. A total of 245 participants were enrolled across the trial, with 121 participants recruited from RBWH, demonstrating the hospital's substantial contribution to this important initiative.

## Research Awards and Achievements

| Recipient<br>(RBWH staff in bold) | Award                                 | Event                                            |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Professor Andreas Obermair</b> | 2025 Clinician Researcher of the Year | 2025 UQ Centre Clinical Research Director Awards |
| <b>Professor Andreas Obermair</b> | 2025 Semmelweis Award                 | Austrian Society for Obstetrics & Gynaecology    |

## Research Grants

| Investigator Names<br>(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 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>Professor Andreas Obermair</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | University of Queensland /QCGC Research | Creating treatment options for endometrial cancer through high-level clinical trials                                                                                                                     | NHMRC Investigator Grants                    | \$2,250,000                     | 5 years<br>2021-2025                       |
| <b>Professor Andreas Obermair</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | University of Queensland /QCGC Research | 2025 Cancer Council Clinical Trials Support Scheme                                                                                                                                                       | Cancer Council Queensland                    | \$247,500                       | 1 year<br>2025                             |
| <b>Professor Andreas Obermair</b> , Dr Eva Baxter,<br>Professor Beverley Vollenhoven,<br>Professor Sandra Hayes, Professor Alexandra McCarthy,<br>Professor Linda Mileshtkin, Professor Monika Janda, Dr Kristy Robledo,<br>Professor Haitham Tuffaha, Professor Val Gebiski | University of Queensland /QCGC Research | Centre of Research Excellence to Improve the QuALity of SurVival in Gynaecological Cancer PatiEnts (ALIVE WELL)                                                                                          | National Health and Medical Research Council | \$3,000,000                     | 5 years<br>2025-2029                       |
| <b>Professor Andreas Obermair</b> , Dr Eva Baxter                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | University of Queensland /QCGC Research | The Australian National Vulvar Cancer (ANVU) trial: A Phase II clinical trial of groin ultrasound surveillance to de-escalate surgical intervention in vulvar cancer                                     | Cherish Women's Cancer Foundation            | \$1,700,000                     | 4 years<br>2025-2028                       |
| <b>Professor Andreas Obermair</b> , Professor Monika Janda,<br>Professor Sandra Hayes, Professor Nicolas Graves,<br>Professor Linda Mileshtkin, Professor Val Gebiski, Professor Yoland Antill, Dr Eva Baxter, Dr Ming-Yin Lin, Dr Kristy Robledo                            | University of Queensland /QCGC Research | ENDO3:A Phase III Randomised Controlled Clinical Trial Comparing Disease-Free Survival of Patients with or without Lymph Node Dissection in clinical stage I Endometrial Cancer (ANZGOGtrial #1911/2020) | National Health and Medical Research Council | \$3,450,575                     | 4 years<br>2024-2028                       |

| Investigator Names<br>(RBWH staff in bold)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | RBWH<br>Departments<br>/ Research<br>Groups | Research Project Title                                                                                                                                                        | Granting Body                                                             | Total<br>Awarded<br>(whole all<br>years) | Length of<br>Awards in<br>years and<br>years active |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Professor Carlos Salomon Gallo,<br><b>Professor Andreas Obermair</b> , Professor John Hooper, Professor Lewis Perrin, Professor Sunil Lakhani, Professor Aleksandra Gentry-Maharaj, Associate Professor Amy Reed, Professor Andrew Barbour, Dr Melanie McCoy, Professor Monika Janda                                                    | University of Queensland /QCGC Research     | The EARLY study: Evaluating the Specificity and feasibility of the EARLY Test for Ovarian Cancer Detection                                                                    | National Health and Medical Research Council                              | \$1,474,487                              | 5 years<br>2024-2029                                |
| <b>Professor Andreas Obermair</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | University of Queensland /QCGC Research     | Queensland Centre for Gynaecological Cancer's NODE Study                                                                                                                      | Gynaecological Cancer Research, Education and Development Society Limited | \$60,000                                 | 2 years<br>2024-2025                                |
| <b>Professor Andreas Obermair</b> , Professor Martha Hickey, Professor Stephen Fox, Professor Martin Oehler, Professor Orla McNally, Professor Alison Brand, Professor Sara Powell, Professor Carlos Salomon Gallo, Professor Paul Cohen, Professor Paul James, Professor Clare Scott, Professor Penny Webb, Professor Johanne De Hullu | University of Queensland /QCGC Research     | Salpingectomy with delayed oophorectomy to prevent ovarian cancer (TUBA WISP II) (MRFF ICTC Grant led by University of Melbourne)                                             | NHMRC MRFF International Clinical Trial Collaborations                    | \$296,450                                | 5 years<br>2024-2029                                |
| <b>Professor Andreas Obermair</b> , Professor Monika Janda, Professor Carlos Salomon Gallo, Professor Alexandra McCarthy, Dr Eva Baxter                                                                                                                                                                                                 | University of Queensland /QCGC Research     | A non-surgical alternative to hysterectomy for the treatment of endometrial cancer                                                                                            | National Health and Medical Research Council                              | \$999,425                                | 5 years<br>2022-2026                                |
| <b>Dr Kristen Moloney</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | University of Queensland /QCGC Research     | Standardisation of Surgical Procedures: Acceptability and appropriateness outside of the research setting and potential collateral benefits to clinical practice and training | Gynaecological Cancer Research Education & Development Society            | \$18,000                                 | 2 years<br>2024-2025                                |

| Investigator Names<br>(RBWH staff in bold)                                                                                                                                | RBWH<br>Departments<br>/ Research<br>Groups | Research Project Title                                                                                                | Granting Body   | Total<br>Awarded<br>(whole all<br>years) | Length of<br>Awards in<br>years and<br>years active |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Professor Andreas Obermair, Associate Professor Jeffrey Goh, Dr Anna Kuchel</b> , Professor Alison Brand, Professor Linda Mileshtkin, Associate Professor Orla McNally | University of Queensland /QCGC Research     | Safety and feasibility of dostarlimab in women with early-stage MMR deficient endometrioid endometrial adenocarcinoma | GlaxoSmithKline | \$1,120,002                              | 4 years<br>2024-2028                                |

## RBWH Department / Research Group Led Research Activity

| Lead Investigator Name<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold) | Other Study Investigators<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Research Project Title                                                                                                                                                     | Consumer involvement     | Number of RBWH Patients Recruited  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Professor Andreas Obermair</b>                            | Professor Jim Nicklin, <b>Dr Andrea Garrett</b> , Professor Val Gebiski, Professor Monika Janda, Professor Sandi Hayes, Professor Nicholas Graves, Professor Linda Mileshtkin, Dr Ming-Yin Lin, Professor George Hanna                                                                                                                                            | A Phase III randomised clinical trial comparing sentinel node biopsy with no retroperitoneal node dissection in early-stage endometrial cancer (ENDO-3)                    | Partnership, Involvement | 95 in total<br>13 in 2025          |
| <b>Professor Andreas Obermair</b>                            | Associate Professor Carlos Salomon, Dr Eva Baxter, Dr Jamie Kutasovic, Dr Andrew Lai, Dr Michelle Alizart, Professor Margaret Cummings, Associate Professor Olga Kondrashova                                                                                                                                                                                      | Identifying predictive biomarkers for progestin treatment of early-stage endometrial cancer                                                                                | Consultation             | NA                                 |
| <b>Professor Andreas Obermair, Dr Kristen Moloney</b>        | <b>Professor Andreas Obermair</b> , Professor Neville F Hacker, Associate Professor Carlos Salomon, Dr Eva Baxter, <b>Dr Shohreh Rezai</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Feasibility of Groin Ultrasound to Predict Groin Lymph Node Involvement in Patients with Histologically Proven Vulvar Cancer (Pre-ANVU)                                    | Consultation             | 40 in total<br>10 in 2025          |
| <b>Professor Andreas Obermair, Dr Andrea Garret</b>          | <b>Professor Andreas Obermair</b> , Professor Neville F Hacker, Associate Professor Carlos Salomon, Dr Eva Baxter, Dr Zoe West, <b>Dr Shohreh Rezai, Dr Andrea Garrett</b>                                                                                                                                                                                        | Randomised Feasibility Study Of Groin Ultrasound Surveillance Versus Groin Node Surgery To De-Escalate The Extent Of Surgery In Queensland Women with Vulvar Cancer (NODE) | Consultation             | 3 in total<br>1 in 2025            |
| <b>Professor Andreas Obermair, Dr Andrea Garret</b>          | <b>Professor Andreas Obermair</b> , Professor Neville F Hacker, Professor Alexandra McCarthy, Professor Sandra Hayes, Professor Monika Janda, Professor Haitham Tuffaha, <b>Dr Shohreh Rezai</b> , Dr Sarah Lord, Dr Eva Baxter, Dr Zoe West, Professor Paul A. Cohen, A/ Professor Orla McNally, Dr Rohan Lourie, Professor Val Gebiski, Professor Andrew Martin | A Phase III randomised clinical trial of ultrasound groin monitoring versus groin lymph node dissection to de-escalate the extent of surgery in vulvar cancer (ANVU)       | Partnership              | Recruitment has not yet commenced. |

| Lead Investigator Name<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold)       | Other Study Investigators<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold)                                                                                                           | Research Project Title                                                                                                                                                                                           | Consumer involvement | Number of RBWH Patients Recruited |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Professor Andreas Obermair, Associate Professor Jeffrey Goh</b> | <b>Professor Andreas Obermair, Associate Professor Jeffrey Goh, Dr Anna Kuchel</b> , Professor Alison Brand, Professor Linda Mileshekin, Associate Professor Orla McNally | A Phase 2b, open-label, single arm, multicentre, pilot study of the efficacy, safety and tolerability of dostarlimab in women with early-stage MMR deficient endometrioid endometrial adenocarcinoma (SATELLITE) | Partnership          | 1                                 |

## Collaborative Research Activity Involving RBWH Department / Research Group

| Lead Investigator Name<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold) | Other Study Investigators<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold)                                              | Research Project Title                                                                                                                                          | Consumer involvement | Number of RBWH Patients Recruited                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Professor Alexandra McCarthy (Griffith)                      | <b>Dr Andrea Garrett</b> , Tom Bailey (UQ), Associate Professor Tina Skinner (UQ), Ms Elizabeth Stewart (UQ) | Enhancing Treatment Outcomes after Gynaecological Cancer: Using Exercise to Promote Health after Cancer Therapy (ACUMEN)                                        | Consultation         | In total 121 participants - recruitment closed in Feb 2025 |
| Professor Alison Brand                                       | <b>Dr Andrea Garrett</b>                                                                                     | A Phase II Study of Tailored Adjuvant Therapy In Pole-Mutated And p53-wildtype/NSMP Early-Stage Endometrial Cancer (RAINBO BLUE & TAPER)                        | Consultation         | 0                                                          |
| Professor Martha Hickey                                      | <b>Dr Amy Tang</b>                                                                                           | TUBectomy with delayed oophorectomy as Alternative for risk-reducing salpingo-oophorectomy in high-risk Women to assess the Safety of Prevention (TUBA-WISP II) | Consultation         | 17 in total<br>14 in 2025                                  |

## Research Publications

### Authors

| Investigator     | ORCID ID                                                                                  |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Andreas Obermair | <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2199-1117">https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2199-1117</a> |
| Andrea Garrett   | <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6595-1905">https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6595-1905</a> |
| Kirsten Moloney  | <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1068-5202">https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1068-5202</a> |
| Russell Land     | <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1134-6379">https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1134-6379</a> |
| Stacey Davie     | <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0286-4454">https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0286-4454</a> |
| Michael Yu       | <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3463-236X">https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3463-236X</a> |

## Publications in 2025

### Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Baxter E, Nair S, West Z, Salomon C, **Obermair A**. Extracellular vesicles as biomarkers for endometrial cancer – A systematic review. *Translational oncology*. 2025;62. doi:10.1016/j.tranon.2025.102543

Baxter E, Robledo KP, **Cummings M**, Alizart M, **Smith D, Obermair A**. Central Pathology Review of Endometrial Hyperplasia and Adenocarcinoma Before and After Treatment With the Levonorgestrel Intrauterine Device-Results From the feMMe Phase 2 Randomized Clinical Trial. *The American journal of surgical pathology*. 2026;50(2):259-266. doi:10.1097/PAS.0000000000002492

## Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Baxter, E., Robledo, K., Gebiski, V., Chen, C., **Garrett, A., Tang, A., Land, R.**, Nicklin, J., Chetty, N., Janda, M., & **Obermair, A.** Long-term oncological and fertility outcomes following the levonorgestrel intrauterine device in early-stage endometrial adenocarcinoma – results from the femme phase II randomised trial. *International Journal of Gynecological Cancer*. 2025;35(11).

Al Ramadhani R, Janda M, Playdon M, **Obermair A.** Diet and Lifestyle Quality in Australian Females with Endometrial Cancer at Diagnosis: Insights from the Fertility-sparing Management for Early Endometrial Cancer (FeMMe) Trial. *Current developments in nutrition*. 2025;9(12). doi:10.1016/j.cdnut.2025.107572

Cohen, P. A., **Obermair, A.**, Gebiski, V., King, M. T., Butow, P., Campbell, R., Bilic, S., Brand, A., Codde, J., **Goh, J. C. H.**, Ives, A., Kiberu, A. D., Lawson, W., Mellon, A., McNally, O., Meniawy, T., Mileshekin, L., Morton, R., Webb, P., & Friedlander, M. L. (2025). CN88 A phase II randomized trial of nurse led telehealth follow-up including patient reported outcomes using the MOST-S26 (measure of ovarian symptoms and treatment concerns) versus routine clinic based or telehealth follow-up, after completion of chemotherapy in patients with ovarian cancer. *Annals of Oncology*, 36, S1538-S1539. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.annonc.2025.08.1166>

**West S**, Jayasinghe D, **Davie S, Obermair A.** Development of a novel Classification of intra-operative Adverse Surgical Events (CiASE) in gynecological cancer surgery. *Int J Gynecol Cancer*. 2025 Jun 27;35(8):101993. doi: 10.1016/j.ijgc.2025.101993. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40763359.

**Davie S, Obermair A**, West ZE. Patterns of care for vulval cancer treatment: the Queensland experience. *Int J Gynecol Cancer*. 2025 Jul;35(7):101956. doi: 10.1016/j.ijgc.2025.101956. Epub 2025 May 27. PMID: 40554102.

Tuesley KM, Spilsbury K, Pearson SA, Donovan P, **Obermair A**, Coory MD, Ali S, Pandeya N, Stewart L, Jordan SJ, Webb PM. Long-acting, progestin-based contraceptives and risk of breast, gynecological, and other cancers. *J Natl Cancer Inst*. 2025 May 1;117(5):1046-1055. doi: 10.1093/jnci/djae282. PMID: 39805314; PMCID: PMC12058256.

**Obermair A**, Gebiski V, **Goh J, Kuchel A**, Brand A, Mak B, McNally O, Baxter E, Jobling T, Mileshekin L. Phase 2b, open-label, single-arm, multicenter pilot study of the efficacy, safety, and tolerability of dostarlimab in women with early-stage mismatch repair-deficient endometrioid endometrial adenocarcinoma. *Int J Gynecol Cancer*. 2025 Apr;35(4):101644. doi: 10.1016/j.ijgc.2025.101644. Epub 2025 Jan 16. Erratum in: *Int J Gynecol Cancer*. 2025 Sep;35(9):101961. doi: 10.1016/j.ijgc.2025.101961. PMID: 39955187.

Gersekowski K, DeFazio A, Friedlander M, **Obermair A**, Webb PM. Green tea consumption, primary treatment outcome and survival after a diagnosis of ovarian cancer. *Journal of epidemiology and community health* (1979). 2025;79(9):684-690. doi:10.1136/jech-2024-222687

Ng ZY, Manchanda R, Lopez A, **Obermair A**, Dostalek L, Pareja R, et al. What Is The True Prognosis Of T1a Cervical Cancer? *International Journal of Gynecological Cancer*. 2025;35(2). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijgc.2024.100442>

Na R, Jordan SJ, DeFazio A, Williams M, Livingstone K, **Obermair A**, Friedlander M, Grant P, Webb PM; OPAL Study Group. Use of menopausal hormone therapy before and after diagnosis and ovarian cancer survival-A prospective cohort study in Australia. *Int J Cancer*. 2025 Jan 15;156(2):280-292. doi: 10.1002/ijc.35154. Epub 2024 Sep 2. PMID: 39222307; PMCID: PMC11578076.

Collings R, Potter C, Gebiski V, Janda M, **Obermair A.** The impact of surgical complications on obstetricians' and gynecologists' well-being and coping mechanisms as second victims. *Am J Obstet Gynecol*. 2025 Jan;232(1):104.e1-104.e12. doi: 10.1016/j.ajog.2024.07.043. Epub 2024 Aug 5. PMID: 39111518.

## Keynote or Plenary Lectures given in 2025

| Date        | Title                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 22 May 2025 | <b>Dr Georgina Mitchell</b> presented Towards CGO Training and Beyond (The Australian Society of Gynaecological Oncologists ASGO)                                                                                                    |
| 22 May 2025 | <b>Dr Kristen Moloney</b> presented Standardisation in Surgical Procedures, What Does this Mean of the Surgical Teacher? (The Australian Society of Gynaecological Oncologists ASGO)                                                 |
| 22 May 2025 | <b>Dr Georgina Mitchell</b> presented Impact of Regionality on Ovarian Cancer Clinical Quality Indicators: A National Gynaecologic Oncology Registry (NGOR) Study (The Australian Society of Gynaecological Oncologists ASGO)        |
| 24 May 2025 | <b>Professor Andreas Obermair</b> presented feMMe Long Term Follow-Up Study (The Australian Society of Gynaecological Oncologists ASGO)                                                                                              |
| 24 May 2025 | <b>Professor Andreas Obermair</b> presented Feasibility of Groin Ultrasound to Predict Groin Lymph Node Involvement in Patients with Histologically Proven Vulvar Cancer (The Australian Society of gynaecological Oncologists ASGO) |

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>9 June 2025</b>     | <b>Professor Andreas Obermair</b> presented ANVU Trial as a Success Story in Trial Design Using IDEAL (IDEAL Conference, Houston)                                                                                                                            |
| <b>5 November 2025</b> | <b>Professor Andreas Obermair</b> poster titled Long-term oncological and fertility outcomes following the levonorgestrel intrauterine device in early-stage endometrial adenocarcinoma – results from the feMMe Phase II Randomised Trial presented at IGCS |

# Nursing and Midwifery Research

## Research highlights

Nursing and Midwifery Research continued to see growth and development in research activity, outputs and recognition during 2025. Plans to grow research immersion opportunities for midwives and nurses during 2026 are underway, aimed at increasing engagement, capacity and interest for more midwives and nurses to engage in and lead research. Capacity building for our Nurses and Midwives within Women's & Newborn Services (WNS) research continues to be a focus with primary aim of imbedding research into our clinical teams and service delivery.

Nursing and Midwifery Research works very closely with our multidisciplinary colleagues, and for this reason there are several of our nurses and midwives that will be covered in the other sections within the WNS report. With this in mind there are a number of acclaimed nurse and midwife researchers within WNS that continue to strive for exemplary research and enquiry including Dr Deanne August (Neonatology), Lisa McKeown (Clinical Research Manager) who is also currently finishing her PhD studies, Associate Professor Lauren Kearney (Conjoint Associate Professor; University of Queensland and RBWH), Stephanie Hall (Nurse Research Coordinator), Janene Douglas (A/Nurse Research Coordinator GSNU), Gill Noreika (Neonatology), Linda Cobbled (Neonatology), Louise Johnson (Midwife).

WNS continues to celebrate many achievements, including Associate Professor Kearney who was awarded the Professor Joan Webster Nursing & Midwifery Researcher of the Year at the Metro North Research Excellence Awards. Dr Deanne August was also awarded a Metro North Health Clinical Research Fellowship – Building evidence and assessment tools to improve neonatal skin integrity, which was an amazing achievement for Dr August and Nursing WNS. Stephanie Hall received the New Investigator (Oral) Award (Neonatal Nursing) from the 2025 Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand (PSANZ) Annual Congress, and Lisa McKeown receiving the Cecilia Brazil Nursing and Midwifery Research Award (Highly Commended) at the Herston Health Precinct Symposium. These awards highlight the significant contribution that nursing and midwifery research brings to WNS and the broader Metro North Health services.

Other achievements include, Associate Professor Chris Lehner and Associate Professor Lauren Kearney being privileged to co-chair the local organising committee for the Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand annual scientific congress, held at the Brisbane Convention Centre in March. Over 700 delegates attended, and Brisbane-based maternal and newborn care researchers had the opportunity for collaboration, celebration and sharing of cutting-edge research.

2025 afforded strengthened collaborations between the Office of the Chief Midwife Office, Queensland Health and Metro North Nursing & Midwifery Research, with successful tenders to co-design Decision Aids for women in maternity care. Midwives were co-authors on over 20 peer-reviewed manuscripts in 2025 and are actively leading five studies within the WNS group.

## Research Awards and Achievements

| Recipient<br>(RBWH staff in bold)                                                                | Award                                                                                                                                               | Event                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lauren Kearney</b>                                                                            | Professor Joan Webster Nursing & Midwifery Researcher of the Year                                                                                   | Metro North Research Awards                             |
| RADIANT investigator team:<br>Jenkinson B, <b>Callaway L, Kearney L</b> , Ahlia Griffiths, et al | Winner: Excellence in Participant Experience<br>Runner up: People's Choice Award for Excellence in Consumer Partnership in Non-commercial Research. | 2025 Australian Consumer Partnership in Research Awards |

## Research Grants

| Investigator Names<br>(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 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>Kearney L, Townsend B, Eley V, Be Cuzzi N, Marsh N</b>                                                                                                              | Nursing & Midwifery Research Centre                                     | Queensland Birth Strategy – Development and evaluation of Vaginal Birth after Caesarean Section, Epidural & Primary Maternity Unit decision aids | Office of the Chief Midwife Officer (competitive tender) | \$150,000                       | 2 years<br>2024-2025                       |
| <b>Seed E, Kearney L, Lehner C, Triggs T</b> , Jenkinson B, Ballard E, Nugent R                                                                                        | Women's and Newborn Services                                            | OptiMising induction of labour care. Low-dose, oral misoprostol versus standard care [OptiMise]: A feasibility study.                            | RBWH Foundation                                          | \$49,651                        | 2 years<br>2024-2025                       |
| Ullman A., <b>Marsh N</b> Curley M, Coyer, F Davies, M Keogh S, <b>Kearney L</b> , McBride C, Kleidon T, <b>August D</b> , Takashima M, Xu G, Cole R, Ware R, Byrnes J | Women's and Newborn Services<br><br>Nursing & Midwifery Research Centre | Building capacity to prevent healthcare harm for hospitalised infants: A Type 1 Hybrid Randomised Controlled Trial                               | MRFF Clinician Researcher                                | \$1,491,791                     | 3 years<br>2023-2026                       |

## RBWH Department / Research Group Led Research Activity

| Lead Investigator Name<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold) | Other Study Investigators<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold) | Research Project Title                                                                                                                           | Consumer involvement | Number of RBWH Patients Recruited |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Kearney L</b>                                             | Chamberlain E                                                   | Queensland Birth Strategy – Development and evaluation of Vaginal Birth after Caesarean Section, Epidural & Primary Maternity Unit decision aids | Involvement          | NA                                |
| <b>Kearney L</b>                                             | <b>Mawn C, Swift A</b> , Ballard E                              | 25 years of Birth Centre Care: A retrospective cohort study                                                                                      | Consultation         | (Retrospective data)              |
| <b>Buetow L</b>                                              | <b>Kearney L</b>                                                | The knowledge, attitudes and practices of midwives using oxytocin for labour augmentation                                                        | N/A                  |                                   |

## Collaborative Research Activity Involving RBWH Department / Research Group

| Lead Investigator Name<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold) | Other Study Investigators<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold)                              | Research Project Title                                                                             | Consumer involvement | Number of RBWH Patients Recruited |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Lee N                                                        | <b>Scott L, Kearney L, Be Cuzzi N, Ballard E, Garland L, Mawn C, Flaniack J, Lengronne M</b> | Reducing perineal infiltration pain with sodium bicarbonate buffered lignocaine (INFILTRATE trial) | Consultation         | 3                                 |

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

| Lead Investigator Name<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold) | Other Study Investigators<br>(RBWH staff and consumers in bold) | Research Project Title                                                                                                                    | Number of RBWH Patients Recruited                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Callaway L</b>                                            | <b>Kearney L, Giudice S, Denaro T, Pervin S</b>                 | Maternal and Neonatal Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women Birthing in Metro North Health: Outcomes and opportunities | No active recruitment – accessing PDC retrospective cohort |

## Research Publications

### Authors

| Investigator          | ORCID ID                                                                                  |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lauren Kearney</b> | <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0299-6537">https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0299-6537</a> |
| <b>Emma Shipton</b>   | <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0981-8135">https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0981-8135</a> |

## Publications in 2025

### Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

**Ball DL**, Ray-Barruel G, Hewer B, Hawley G, **Kearney L**, Schults J, et al. Peripheral intravenous catheter insertion training for undergraduate dual degree nursing and midwifery students: A descriptive qualitative study. Australian Journal of Advanced Nursing. 2025;42(4):15-23.

Nugent R, de Costa C, **Callaway L**, Erigadoo S, Gilbertson E, Brown C, Perry-Keene J, Shakhovskoy R, **Kearney L**. Continuous positive airway pressure versus usual care for obstructive sleep apnoea in pregnancy: a two-step pilot trial. Pilot Feasibility Stud. 2025 Jun 5;11(1):79. doi: 10.1186/s40814-025-01645-1. PMID: 40474294; PMCID: PMC12139340.

Buchanan, K, O'Reilly, E, Wilcox, G, Bayes, S, **Kearney L**, Sweet, L, Keedle, H. Midwife-led birth debrief: A concept analysis. Midwifery 151 104647 104647-151. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.midw.2025.104647>

**Kearney L**, Jenkinson B, Robins A, **Callaway L**, van den Heuvel J, Roussin M, Hill B. Maternity care providers' attitudes and beliefs toward weight and body size during pregnancy: A cross-sectional survey. Sex Reprod Healthc. 2025 Dec;46:101145. doi: 10.1016/j.srhc.2025.101145.

**Kearney L**, Jenkinson, B, **Lehner C**, **Eley V**, **Marsh N**, **August D**, **de Jersey S**, and Lee, N. 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 (5) e70438 1-7. <https://doi.org/10.1111/hex.70438>

van den Heuvel, J, Wallis, K, **Kearney L**, **Callaway L**. The answer is simple, it's respectful': General practitioner views on reducing weight stigma to improve maternity care. Australian Journal of General Practice 2025-09-01 54 (9).

Khalesi H, Jenkinson B, **Kearney L**, **Callaway L**, Hill B. Understanding larger-bodied women's experiences of maternity care: A pilot evaluation of the feasibility and acceptability of an online photovoice approach. Midwifery. 2025 Sep;148:104534. doi: 10.1016/j.midw.2025.104534

Robins, A, Jenkinson, B, & **Kearney L**. (2025). Navigating weight stigma: An integrative review of midwives' knowledge, attitudes and beliefs about caring for larger-bodied women. Midwifery. 2025 Aug;147:104444. doi: 10.1016/j.midw.2025.104444.

Nugent R, de Costa C, **Callaway L**, **Kearney L**. Maternity care experiences of women with a BMI > 35 kg/m<sup>2</sup>: An interpretive phenomenological analysis. Women Birth. 2025 May;38(3):101900. doi: 10.1016/j.wombi.2025.101900.

## Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Guthrie, TM., **Kearney**, L, Snape, K, Sweet, L, Vasilevski, V, **de Jersey**, S (2025). Pregnant women's experiences of nutrition care after previous bariatric surgery. *Midwifery* 143, 104333 104333. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.midw.2025.104333>

Bogossian, F, Bloxsome, D, Brown, A, Cant, R, Hunter, S, **Kearney**, L, Kuliukas, L, Ross, C, & Cooper, S. (2025). Confirming the validity and reliability of the Placement Evaluation Tool to evaluate midwifery practice placements (PET-Midwifery). *Midwifery* 143 104310 104310-143. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.midw.2025.104310>

**Houghton, S, Kearney, L**, Framp, A. Optimising breastfeeding success for women with gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) through antenatal education: An integrative literature review. *Breastfeeding Review* 2025 33 (1) 5-15.

Maher, J., Annetts, E., Lee, S., Meloncelli, N. **Kearney, L**. Learning from pregnant women eating 5 servings or more of vegetables daily: strategies, behaviours and motivators. *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behaviour*. March 2025  
doi: 10.1016/j.jneb.2024.12.004

**Kearney, L.**, Bloxsome, D., Hunter, S., Brown, A., Cooper, S., and Bogossian, F. A qualitative analysis of Australian midwifery students' perspectives of Midwifery Practice Experience: characteristics that enhance or diminish clinical education placements. *Women and Birth* 2025 38 (2) 101887 101887. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wombi.2025.101887>

McIntyre, B., Massey, D., Lee, N, **Kearney, L**. Intrapartum hydration assessment and management: A cross-sectional survey of Australian and New Zealand maternity units. *Women and Birth* 2025, 38 (1) 101865, 101865. doi:10.1016/j.wombi.2024.101865

Swift LM, **Kearney** L, Hyun A, Levett-Jones TL, Bogossian FE. Defining registered nurse competence: A contemporary concept analysis. *Collegian*. 2025;32(4):258-65.

Bogossian FE, Bloxsome D, Brown A, Cant R, Hunter S, **Kearney** L, et al. Confirming the validity and reliability of the Placement Evaluation Tool to evaluate midwifery practice placements. *Midwifery*. 2025 Apr;143:104310. doi: 10.1016/j.midw.2025.104310

**Shipton, E. V.**, Lee, N., Foxcroft, K., **de Jersey, S. J.**, **Callaway, L.** (2025). 'We've ticked the boxes': A qualitative study of women's experiences receiving antenatal breastfeeding education. *Breastfeeding Review* 2025, 33(1), 16-28.

**Shipton EV**, Foxcroft K, **de Jersey SJ**, **Callaway L**, Lee N. "Butterflies in the air, you're now a breastfeeding mother": A qualitative study of women's experiences receiving postnatal midwifery breastfeeding support. *Women Birth*. 2025 Jan;38(1):101859. doi: 10.1016/j.wombi.2024.101859.