

Centre for the Advancement of Clinical Research



Prof. Lawrie Powell AC
Director, Research

Overview

The Centre for the Advancement of Clinical Research continues to expand, reflecting the increase in research activity on campus. It promotes innovative clinical research within the district, assists current and future researchers participating in research programs and provides links between researchers and funding opportunities, including the RBWH Foundation, UQCCR, QIMR, QUT and the Office of Health and Medical Research. The Centre is complementary to, and liaises closely with the RBWH Foundation whose key role is to raise funds for research and manage any grants placed through the Foundation.

The Centre assists researchers in the preparation of applications for funding and ethical approval of research. Applications for research funding are facilitated by administrative staff familiar with the relevant legal, ethical, regulatory, scientific and financial requirements for research activity within the complex. All applications are then reviewed by the Research Advisory Committee (see below).

RBWH currently separates the functions of Research Governance and Ethics, which is undertaken by the RBWH Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). Research governance is the framework by which the institution oversees and administers research to ensure that it complies with relevant legislation and meets appropriate standards of quality, safety, privacy, risk and financial management. These activities are increasing substantially as the research activities on campus increase in number and complexity.

In 2012, the Centre continued to assume the role of coordinating the review process of low and negligible risk research, processing more than 100 applications. This activity has been facilitated by the appointment of Anitha Dinesh who has appropriate background in business and finance.

Research staff

| Name | Qualifications | Position | Interests/specialties |
|------------------------|---|--|---|
| Prof. Lawrie Powell AC | MD, PhD, DUniv (Griff), FRACP, FRCP (Lond), FRCPT | Director, Research | liver disease, haemochromatosis, research and research governance |
| Jennifer Lonton | BN, BBus, GCHM | Research Support Officer | research governance |
| John Hewett | GDBA, GCM | Business Manager, Research and Special Projects | financial management |
| Anitha Dinesh | MBA | Assistant Research Support Officer/ Assistant Business Manager Research | financial management |
| Estelle Ellis | | Executive Assistant | |

Research Advisory Committee

Following the recommendations of the Ryan Review in 2004, a Research Advisory Committee was established to advise the hospital on matters of research and research funding and also to advise the RBWH Foundation on the allocation of grants. The composition of the Research Advisory Committee for 2012 was as follows:

- » **Emeritus Professor Mervyn Eadie AO** MD, PhD (Chair), Professor Emeritus, The University of Queensland and Chair, Queensland Health Central Human Research Ethics Committee
- » **Professor Lawrie Powell AC**, MD, PhD, DUniv (Griff), FRACP, FRCP (London), FRCPT. Director, Research, RBWH
- » **Professor Ron Dickinson** BSc Hons, PhD. Professorial Research Fellow and Director, Centre for Studies in Drug Disposition, The University of Queensland
- » **Adjunct Associate Professor Lesley Fleming OAM** Executive Director, Nursing and Midwifery Services, RBWH
- » **Professor Murray Mitchell** DPhil, DSc, FRSNZ. Director, The University of Queensland Centre for Clinical Research
- » **Professor Denis Moss** BSc, PhD, Senior Principal Research Fellow, Queensland Institute of Medical Research
- » **Dr Jacobus Ungerer** MBChB, MMed (Chem Path), MBL, FRCPA. Acting Director, Chemical Pathology, Pathology Queensland
- » **Dr Ian Wilkey** MBBS, BSc, LLB, FRCPA, FAFPHM. Chair, QIMR Ethics Committee
- » **Professor Glenn Gardner** RN, PhD, FRCNA. Professor of Clinical Nursing and Director, RBWH/QUT Centre for Clinical Nursing
- » **Dr Peter Roeser** MD, FRACP, FRCPA. Retired Physician, The University of Queensland Department of Medicine
- » **Professor Robert Tindle** PhD. Professor Emeritus, The University of Queensland and Former Director, Sir Albert Sakzewski Virus Research Centre, RCH and Clinical Medical Virology Centre, The University of Queensland
- » **Associate Professor Roger Allison** MBBS, DObst, MRCP, FRCR, FRACR, FACHPM. Executive Director, Cancer Care Services, RBWH
- » **Associate Professor Gerard Byrne** BSc (Med), MBBS (Hons.) PhD, FRANZCP. Head, Academic Discipline of Psychiatry, UQ and Director, Older Persons' Mental Health Service, Metro North Mental Health Services
- » **Judith Catherwood** BComm, BSc (Hons) Dietetics, PG Cert Strategic Workforce Planning. Executive Director, Allied Health Professions, RBWH.

Research grants

| Investigators | Research title | Granting body | Amount awarded | Years of funding |
|--|---|-------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| McLaren, C. et al (six centres, including QIMR) | Genetic modifiers of iron status in haemochromatosis HFE C282Y homozygotes | National Institutes of Health | \$US265, 190 | 2011-2012 |
| Anderson, G.J., Walter, P., Powell, L.W., Ramm, G.A., Subramaniam V.N. | Assessment of oxidant stress and mitochondrial dysfunction in young adults with iron loading diseases | NHMRC Project Grant 613689 | \$591,525 | 2010-2012 |
| Delatycki, M. et al (three centres) | Venesection or expectant management for moderate iron overload in HFE related hereditary haemochromatosis | NHMRC | \$820,000 | 2012-2014 |

Publications

O'Brien J, Powell LW. Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease: Is iron relevant? *Hepatology International*. 2012;6:332-341.

Wood MJ, Powell LW, Dixon JL, Ramm GA. Clinical cofactors and hepatic fibrosis in hereditary hemochromatosis: the role of diabetes mellitus. *Hepatology*. 2012;56(3):904-911.



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+61 7 3646 8111
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