



REWB
Royal Brisbane and
Women's Hospital

Executive Director's report



Prof. Kesh Baboolal
Executive Director
Royal Brisbane and
Women's Hospital

The value of research to human health and patient care is without doubt. Research has created many new, life-saving procedures and treatments that have resulted in the prevention, eradication and effective management of many diseases.

A strong research culture enables continuous service improvement and the delivery of evidence-based care that leads to significant improvements in the quality and safety of our health services. With this in mind, it is my pleasure to highlight the research excellence that continues at Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH) and acknowledge those who have contributed to this success.

Research continues to thrive at RBWH. We are particularly proud of the multidisciplinary research with medical, nursing and allied health clinicians all contributing to a large and varied body of work. 2012 saw a continued growth in our research activity and the creation of new opportunities for research collaboration with our partners across Metro North Hospital and Health Service (MNHHS).

The success of our 21st annual RBWH Healthcare Symposium and the Queensland Trauma Symposium once again showcased the depth of research being undertaken at the hospital and our commitment to create an environment where we can both share our knowledge and learn from others so that we can deliver the best care to our patients.

The strong partnership between RBWH and other Metro North Hospital and Health Service providers, Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR), The University of Queensland (UQ) and Queensland University of Technology (QUT) continues to shape the Herston campus to achieve the shared ambition to be a centre of excellence for research. This partnership continues to drive the development of the Herston Imaging Research Facility (HIRF), which will put Queensland at the forefront of human imaging research.

I would like to thank all RBWH staff who contributed to our research success in 2012 and would particularly like to acknowledge RBWH Director of Research, Professor Lawrie Powell AC, and his team for the leadership role they have played in this achievement.

Thanks also goes to those at the forefront of our strong research partnerships. In particular Professor Frank Gannon, Director, QIMR; Professor Nicholas Fisk, Executive Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, UQ; Professor Ross Young, Executive Dean, Faculty of Health, QUT; Professor Leonie Callaway, Head of the Royal Brisbane Clinical School; and RBWH Foundation CEO, Peter Treseder AM and his team.

I look forward to another year of research success at RBWH as our best and brightest researchers continue to engage in work that will not only benefit patient care, but will also benefit global endeavours to improve human health.

Professor Kesh Baboolal
Executive Director
Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

Research Director's report



Prof. Lawrie Powell AC
Director, Research

2012 continued to see the impressive increase in research activities across the Herston campus with increased peer-review funding, publications and postgraduate and graduate student research as shown clearly in the accompanying graphs (see page 5).

This increase is also seen in the significant collaboration and partnerships between the various institutions on the campus – The University of Queensland (UQ) Faculty of Health Sciences, with the Health Sciences building; The University of Queensland Centre for Clinical Research (UQCCR) and Medical School; Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR); and Queensland University of Technology (QUT). Their individual reports can be found within this report.

RBWH is now the largest teaching hospital for the UQ School of Medicine and for the QUT School of Nursing. The hospital's clinical programs involve the whole spectrum of medicine, nursing and allied health, including obstetrics, women's health and neonatology. This, and the significant outreach programs where staff regularly visit and service regional hospitals, makes RBWH the largest health care centre in the state, involving approximately ten per cent of Queensland Health activities and consuming approximately ten per cent of the total Queensland Health budget.

Despite this, the continued research productivity at RBWH would not be possible without the strong support of the RBWH Private Practice Trust Fund (PPTF) and RBWH Foundation, both of which contributed to the \$2 million allocated in 2012 for peer-reviewed research.

The significant collaborative ventures involving RBWH and its partner institutions in this large medical, educational and research precinct are discussed in the other reports and will not be detailed again here. They include the Herston Imaging Research Facility (HIRF), the Australian Centre for Health Services Innovation (AushSI), the Centre for Palliative Care Research and Education (CPCRE) and the QIMR/RBWH Clinical Research Award Programme.

It is particularly pleasing to see the steady increase in research productivity in nursing and allied health at RBWH, with significant collaboration with QUT and Griffith University, including an NHMRC-funded Centre for Research Excellence (Griffith/RBWH) for nursing. Dr Marilyn Banks, Director, Nutrition and Dietetics, won several accolades from her alma mater, QUT and also the NHMRC, including Professional Research Training Fellow.

The annual RBWH Healthcare Symposium continues to be the major showcase for the hospital's clinical, educational and research activities with more than 1000 attendees and more than 100 staff and students in its planning and execution with statewide, national and international speakers. The 2012 Symposium was the 21st annual one and focused on the major role of RBWH in managing burns and trauma.

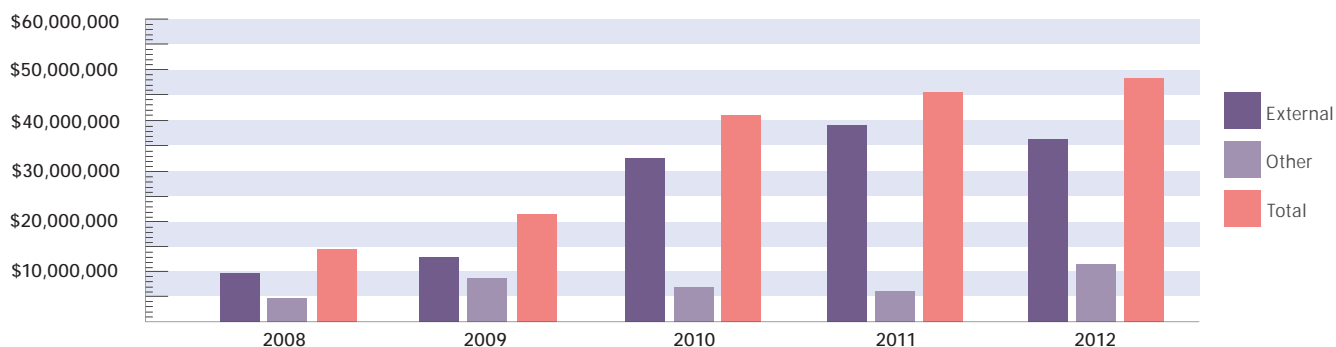
In 2012, a major strategic and scientific external review of research at RBWH was conducted over three days by a multidisciplinary committee chaired by Professor Garry Jennings of the Baker IDI Institute, Melbourne. The review built on the previous one in 2004 by the Ryan Committee and a comparison of them shows the very significant developments of research on campus. This augurs well for the future and demonstrates that research, along with education and comprehensive health care, is now core business for the hospital.

Thus, RBWH continues its trend towards a full academic health centre with excellence in clinical care, teaching and research. It is widely recognised that such centres attract staff with enquiring minds, tenacity and a pursuit of excellence. Such staff themselves attract students and others of like mind. The end result is a higher quality of health care at a sustainable cost.

Professor Lawrie Powell AC
Director, Research
Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

Research performance

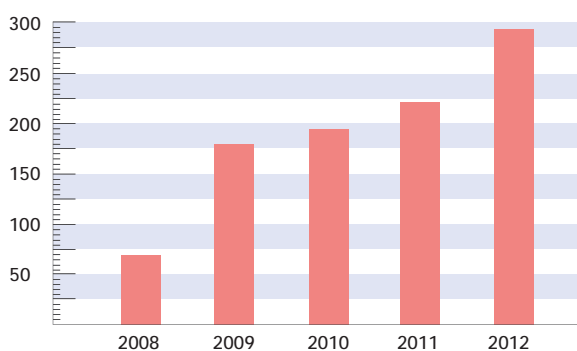
Research grants



Year	External	Other	Total
2008	\$9,906,443	\$4,559,248	\$14,465,691
2009	\$13,181,391	\$8,393,707	\$21,575,098
2010	\$33,560,687	\$7,069,210	\$40,629,897
2011	\$39,237,730	\$6,272,327	\$45,510,057
2012	\$36,704,749.00	\$11,774,729	\$48,479,478

External research funding includes funds received from external peer reviewed funding sources (e.g. National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), National Heart Foundation, Australian Government ARC Grant). Internal research funding includes funds received from internal peer-reviewed funding sources (Queensland Health, RBWH Foundation, RBWH Private Practice Trust Fund, and university funding). Funds received from commercially-sponsored clinical trials contract research are not included. Grants include those where an RBWH researcher is a Chief or Co-Investigator.

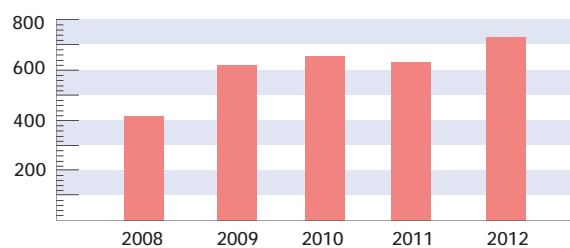
Supervised postgraduate students



Year	No. of students
2008	70
2009	180
2010	194
2011	221
2012	291

Higher degrees include masters and doctoral level degrees conferred or currently under supervision by a RBWH researcher.

Publications



Year	No. of publications
2008	413
2009	619
2010	648
2011	632
2012	743

Publications include peer-reviewed journal articles, where an RBWH researcher is a named co-author. Books, book chapters, electronic publications, abstracts, conference proceedings and 'in press' articles are not included.



Prof. Ross Young
Executive Dean
Faculty of Health
Queensland University
of Technology

Throughout 2012, the strong partnership between Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH) continued to expand across various areas of health-related research and training. Much of QUT's involvement is through its Faculties of Health, and Science and Engineering, and the university's state-of-the-art research facility, the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation (IHBI).

The well-defined relationship between QUT and RBWH promotes novel research, training and education into patient care and advances in health sciences. New and ongoing adjunct and joint appointments bring together multidisciplinary teams to address developments in health services, nursing, cancer care, nutrition and chronic disease. Education of future researchers and clinicians remains a strong priority for both areas.

Enrolment of clinical professionals in higher degree research programs at QUT is high, with candidates enjoying the benefit of expert supervisory teams across both academic and hospital settings. A strong publication record shows productive links between academic staff, clinicians and students in the key areas of nutrition and malnutrition, cancer, and health services. Outputs in international journals, such as the 'European Journal of Cancer' and 'Appetite', show the world-wide significance of our joint research.

One of the most significant recent developments has been the establishment of the Australian Centre for Health Services Innovation (AushSI), a joint partnership between the Queensland Government, RBWH and QUT. The centre recognises the need for health services research in Australia to address appropriate integration of new technology, contain rising costs and improve the quality of the health system.

A unique focus on linking health services professionals with academics from partner universities will allow dissemination to policy makers and politicians. Themes based broadly around workforce, culture and leadership, patient flow, continuity of care, future health facility design, and practice evaluation and optimisation will drive knowledge translation to improve health services and clinical decision making.





A consultancy project, requisitioned by RBWH and managed by QUT, will deliver and publish a review of existing national and international allied health workforce benchmarks and is to provide a dataset on which to compare the size, proportion and allocation of the workforce in different parts of Australia, and if possible, other countries. The centre has successfully developed an innovative stimulus grant funding scheme in 2012 and completed the first two rounds of funding. There was an enthusiastic response to these rounds, demonstrating the need for research funding within health services. The centre is currently supporting 11 research groups through stimulus grants and four PhD scholars.

Establishment of the Herston Imaging and Research Facility (HIRF), a joint venture between The University of Queensland (UQ), RBWH, QUT and the Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR), was another significant outcome during 2012. This collaboration will support the development, evaluation and validation of novel biomarkers for cancer and other metabolic complications, as well as the ability to profile patients for individualised treatment according to their level of risk. Key researchers from the biomedical sciences and biotechnology field will lead advances in this area.

QUT is a major university partner of RBWH for nursing research and training. A number of long-standing partnerships and collaborations in this area continued to grow and foster throughout 2012. Researchers from the well-established QUT-RBWH Nursing Research and Development Unit in the Centre for Clinical Nursing are furthering their research into a number of key areas around evidence-based practice in nursing. Together with the activities conducted through this centre, the establishment of three QUT-RBWH Nursing Professorial Units in the areas of acute surgery nursing, renal nursing, and intensive care medicine have continued and bring about improvements in outcomes for patients at the hospital.

QUT is a lead partner in the Centre for Palliative Care Research and Education (CPCRE) at RBWH. This Queensland Health initiative is aimed at improving statewide palliative care services.

Our ongoing track record in attracting funding has seen further research into areas affecting policy and practice. Commencing in 2012, QUT and RBWH received project grant funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) to look at identifying a cost-effective approach to MRSA control in Australia. This important piece of work, funded over three years, will help decision makers choose the optimal mix of interventions that reduce MRSA transmission in Australia. MRSA control guidelines will be updated to provide decision makers with information about which strategies are cost-effective and make the best use of scarce healthcare resources. This, and other externally funded research, is having a strong influence on decision making and future planning in the healthcare sector.

QUT looks forward to another productive year ahead as we build future networks between clinicians, specialists and researchers from hospitals and universities.

Professor Ross Young

Executive Dean, Faculty of Health
Queensland University of Technology



THE MEDICAL SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND



Prof. Bruce Abernethy
Deputy Executive Dean and
Associate Dean (Research)
Faculty of Health Sciences
The University of Queensland

The relationship between The University of Queensland (UQ) and Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH) is a long-standing one that the university values highly.

2012 saw a continued strengthening of that relationship at a number of levels and through a number of important joint ventures and new initiatives.

Schools and dedicated research centres within the Faculty of Health Sciences act as the principal source of contact between UQ and RBWH. The Schools of Medicine, Nursing and Midwifery, and Population Health all have a strong presence on the Herston campus and staff and research students from these schools engage collaboratively in research of direct relevance to the day-to-day activities of RBWH.

Four research centres from within the School of Medicine are based at RBWH – the Burns, Trauma and Critical Care Research Centre (BTCCRC), directed by Professor Jeffrey Lipman; the Queensland Centre for Gynaecological Cancer Research, directed by Professor Andreas Obermair; the Multiple Sclerosis Research Centre, directed by Professor Michael Pender; and the Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences Research Centre, directed by Professor Gerard Byrne. Each of these has direct involvement from key hospital units, departments and clinicians.

Also co-located with the hospital is The University of Queensland Centre for Clinical Research (UQCCR), which is a university-level centre dedicated to undertaking clinically-relevant research in the areas of mothers, babies and lifelong health, cancer, brain and mental health, infection and immunity.

The 2012 opening of the Asia Pacific Centre for Neuromodulation within UQCCR, directed by Professor Helen Chenery, has also created a range of exciting new collaborative research opportunities on the impact of deep brain stimulation techniques on a host of neurological and neuro-degenerative conditions.

Throughout 2012 there has been further recognition from both the university and hospital of the critical importance of the nexus between research, teaching and clinical service delivery that the UQ-RBWH partnership provides. High-level planning has continued, under the banner of the Mayne Health Science Alliance, to position both UQ and RBWH as key contributors to a future academic health sciences centre. Integral to such a development is enhancing the active interactions and collaborations that already exist between UQ and RBWH by way of conjoint and academic title holder staff appointments, joint research projects, joint commitments to the recruitment and support of academic clinicians and joint contributions to the development of world-class infrastructure, such as the Herston Imaging and Research Facility (also involving QIMR and QUT).

In the past 12 months two new initiatives have been launched by UQ to further enhance clinical engagement with RBWH and other key hospitals with which the university interacts.

The first initiative was a wide-ranging internal review of the operation of the clinical schools of the university. Stemming from this, two new posts of direct relevance to the RBWH have been established within the Faculty of Health Sciences. Professor Gerald Holtmann has been appointed to the new post of Associate Dean (Clinical) to oversee clinical teaching and research partnerships across all the health sciences disciplines at UQ and Professor Leonie Callaway has been appointed to oversee clinical activities and engagement between the university and all hospitals in a northern cluster, including RBWH.

The second initiative was the establishment of a research seed funding scheme to support the research activities of clinicians appointed as academic title holders of UQ. This co-investment scheme is to both help recognise the contributions that academic title holders make to the teaching and research activities of the university and to make available funds to help foster hospital-based clinical research. The first round of grants will be awarded for work to commence in 2013.

Given the long-standing collaboration and the stimulus provided by these new initiatives and opportunities, the UQ Faculty of Health Sciences looks forward to its 2013 interactions with RBWH with genuine optimism and excitement.

Professor Bruce Abernethy
Deputy Executive Dean and Associate Dean (Research)
Faculty of Health Sciences
The University of Queensland

The University of Queensland Centre for Clinical Research



Prof. Murray Mitchell
Director, The University
of Queensland Centre
for Clinical Research

It is with great pride that I can report again this year on the continued growth of The University of Queensland Centre for Clinical Research (UQCCR) and the many milestones and accomplishments seen across the centre and our major areas of research.

Our researchers took pleasure in more funding success throughout 2012 with overall grant monies awarded to UQCCR totalling over \$19 million – the highest the centre has received since beginning operations four years ago. In a welcome reward for our efforts in this direction for the centre, total funding from external sources (other than NHMRC and ARC) increased by more than 170 per cent to around \$12.3 million, making up the lion's share (64 per cent) of our funding achievements for the year.

The flow of high-quality publications from the centre's researchers also increased substantially with total publications across books, book chapters, journal articles and conference abstracts jumping to 477 in 2012 (a staggering 70 publications more than the year prior). Further to this, many of our researchers had their work published in renowned publications including 'Nature', 'Nature Genetics', the Lancet and PLoS.

Our commitment to providing the highest quality experience and education for our students is best represented by the 21 students who completed their journey with us by graduating in 2012 and the increase in research higher degree (RHD) students enrolling under the supervision of centre staff every year. We now have 148 total students associated with UQCCR researchers, of which 127 are RHD students and 38 of which were new enrolments in 2012.

The new multimillion dollar Asia-Pacific Centre for Neuromodulation (APCN) was launched in 2012, in strengthening our partnership with St Andrews Hospital and the UQ Faculty of Health Science, with UQCCR Professor, Helen Chenery, appointed as Director. Helen is a leading researcher in the area of the neurobiology of language in Parkinson's disease and the impact of Deep Brain Stimulation on cognition.

We continue to make progress in building the Herston Imaging Research Facility (HIRF) – a joint initiative of UQ, Queensland Health, Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and the Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR) with construction beginning mid-2013. The facility will be an annex to UQCCR, utilising our clinical facilities and providing cutting edge imaging methods to improve the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, mental disorders and neurological diseases associated with ageing.

Furthermore, we were pleased to announce this year the establishment of the ACRF Molecular Oncology Translational Imaging Facility that is to be located within HIRF. The procurement of two state-of-the-art scanners with hybrid molecular imaging technology will provide researchers and students with unique, world-class technologies that give them a competitive advantage in their studies, grant applications and ability to diagnose and treat patients.

Our dedication to further developing partnerships with clinical colleagues and hospitals across Brisbane was demonstrated at the 21st annual RBWH Healthcare Symposium, where 35 out of 101 presentation abstracts were provided by UQCCR researchers. Further to this, by continuing to utilise professional linkages within the research hub of the Herston campus, our clinical floor enjoyed significant growth in 2012 with the total number of patients participating in investigator-driven clinical trials at UQCCR increasing by almost 90 per cent (to 1,542 patients) when compared to the year prior.

For the year ahead, we are evaluating our themes and in particular one new theme – public health policy. This innovative and exciting theme would contribute to the UQCCR vision to shape health and funding policy by examining public policy issues in two important health areas: women's health and addiction and mental health. The work of the theme would aim to inform government, the public and other bodies in establishing ethically appropriate and socially effective policies that maximise benefits to health.

The new theme's two main areas of strategic focus would be led by Associate Professor Jayne Lucke for Women's Health and Australian Fellow Professor Wayne Hall for Addiction.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all UQCCR staff and students for their tremendous efforts throughout 2012. We are proud to have a dedicated team of academic, professional and research staff who share our vision and work tirelessly to save, transform and improve the lives of people across the community.

Professor Murray Mitchell
Director
The University of Queensland Centre for Clinical Research



UQCCR
University of Queensland
Queensland Centre for
Cancer Research

Queensland Institute of Medical Research



Prof. Frank Gannon
Director and Chief
Executive Officer
Queensland Institute
of Medical Research

As we share the same campus at Herston it is natural that QIMR and the RBWH would have shared interests and activities. A start point for this is the fact that key members of the QIMR Faculty are active clinicians at the RBWH. Examples include Professor James McCarthy, Coordinator of the Infectious Diseases Programme; Professor Michael Breakspear, Coordinator of the Mental Health/Complex Disorders Programme; and Professor Geoff Hill, Coordinator of the Immunology Department.

2012 was a very significant year in the further growth of the linkages between QIMR and the RBWH. Progress towards the establishment of the ambitious plan to establish a unique multi-modality research imaging building, the Herston Imaging Research Facility (joint operation involving RBWH, UQ, QUT and QIMR), has continued to move forward with equipment and building plans at an advanced stage such that they will be delivered upon in 2013. The fact that the four partners are sharing resources for this development shows the degree to which our collaborative base has been strengthened.

Our mutual engagement in the development of the Integrated Health Science Centre (also known as the Advanced or Academic Health Science Centre) concept has been maintained during the year and plans for this are also at a stage where real action can take place in 2013. Much work has gone on towards developing this concept that will interconnect clinical services, research activities and training of the partners involved. It heralds a very important change in how we interact and should result in the best possible care for patients being made available rapidly.

These are prospects for the near future but the most significant development in 2012 may have been the launch of a joint QIMR/RBWH Clinical Research Award Programme. Both parties contributed to supporting research involving a clinician at RBWH and a researcher at QIMR. At QIMR we are very committed to this concept and hope that it will grow in importance and impact in the years to come. Through it we will identify new opportunities to work together and in the process mould the research activities at QIMR such that they match the needs defined by clinicians.

As shown by these activities it is clear that QIMR is very aware of the benefits of co-location at the Herston campus site with the RBWH. We wish them to grow and become more comprehensive. The above shows that there are many opportunities for this to happen.

Professor Frank Gannon
Director and Chief Executive Officer
Queensland Institute of Medical Research





Peter Treseder AM
Chief Executive Officer
RBWH Foundation

As the charity arm of Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, RBWH Foundation plays a vital role in not only raising the money needed to fund clinical research and other activities on the campus, but raising awareness of the exemplary work and achievements of the hospital's researchers and other staff.

Through building our profile, pursuing commercial activities and continuing to actively engage with large and small businesses, community groups and generous individuals, the Foundation has been able to successfully grow its fundraising revenue year on year. In the past five years, total revenue has more than doubled, increasing from \$2.6 million in 2006-2007 to \$6.8 million in 2011-2012.

While this growth obviously enables the Foundation to invest more into clinical research and other initiatives aimed at improving patient outcomes, it also gives us the opportunity to strengthen our financial position in order to ensure a sustainable future.

A total of \$1.33 million was distributed in the year ended 30 June 2012 to a variety of new and ongoing medical research projects being conducted at the hospital.

RBWH Foundation's primary method of distributing this funding is through our annual Research Grant Awards program. These grants are awarded based on merit by the Foundation's Research Advisory Committee and they are designed to enable projects to get off the ground and establish a basis from which the researchers can apply for more substantial grants from larger external bodies. The grants include Research Initiative Grants, Nursing and Allied Health Research Grants and Patricia Dukes Fellowship Grants.

RBWH Foundation also provides funding to a number of research centres based at RBWH for ongoing projects. Some examples of this ongoing research funding include:

- » **Burns, Trauma and Critical Care Research Centre (BTCCRC)** – RBWH Foundation negotiated a three-year sponsorship deal for this centre with Brisbane-based construction company Epoca. This sponsorship enables the centre to continue its research work in areas such as the application of antibiotic therapy in critically ill patients and improving the psychological health of burns patients.
- » **Neurology Research Centre** – RBWH Foundation provides ongoing funding for motor neurone disease (MND) research. The researchers in this area are focussed on developing reliable markers for the disease's progression with the hope that these developments can then be used in international clinical treatment trials.
- » **Perinatal Research Centre** – RBWH Foundation continued to raise funds for the centre's five-year Brain Research Advances In Newborns (BRAIN) Project in 2012. The project seeks to better understand and detect brain injuries in newborns while determining new methodologies for treating these injuries.

Many of the hospital's main research centres/groups have now established tied funds with the Foundation to house money received through special donations, bequests and grants. These tied funds allow researchers easy access to their funding as and when required.

As the requests for research funding continue to increase from across the campus, so does the Foundation's commitment to raising the money needed to support these potentially life-saving projects. Raising these funds, however, would not be possible without the generous contributions of our many supporters and we would like to take this opportunity to thank these supporters most sincerely. Our supporters include donors, sponsors, people who purchase our merchandise, individuals and businesses who provide items for auctions and raffles and everyone who attends our various events.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Chair, The Honourable Warwick Parer AM, and volunteer members of the RBWH Foundation Board. With our Board's continuing leadership and drive, coupled with the dogged determination of our small fundraising team, we are extremely optimistic about further increasing support and our capacity to provide additional financial assistance to the RBWH in 2013.

Peter Treseder AM
Chief Executive Officer
RBWH Foundation



Herston Health Sciences Library



Nicky Foxlee
Manager
Herston Health
Sciences Library

The Herston Health Sciences Library provides resources and services to support the research, clinical, teaching and learning needs of hospital staff located on the Herston site and staff and students of The University of Queensland (UQ).

Librarians in the Research and Information Service (RIS) at the Herston Health Sciences Library provide expert advice to hospital staff from across the hospital's departments and units. They support staff conducting research through all stages of their research cycle and can assist with:

- » Individual research consultations
- » Literature searches
- » Advanced information literacy training and department in-service sessions
- » Developing collections for research and teaching needs
- » Staying up-to-date with the literature in a discipline
- » Endnote (referencing software)
- » Metrics for research grant applications.

During the past year, RIS Librarians conducted approximately 15 individual research consultations each week and undertook more than 113 literature searches for hospital clients requiring evidence-based information to support research, patient care, clinical guideline and care pathway development and audit or policy documentation. The Librarians regularly contribute their expertise to systematic review and clinical guideline groups and provide metrics assistance for grant applications.

RBWH staff have access to world-class research and scholarship through the print resources provided by the UQ Library. The UQ Library (15 branches) has one of the largest academic collections in Australia with more than two million volumes.

The Library provides an exceptional print collection of health and medical books and journals. In 2012, the Herston Collection Development Committee, comprising representatives from the hospitals and the university, purchased 900 new items, 17,197 items were borrowed from the collection and 121,420 items were re-shelved after being returned to, or used in the Library.

Increasingly, researchers seek access to scholarly information in electronic format. The Library provides an extensive and increasing range of electronic journals, books and other digital material. Clinicians with a UQ academic title have full access to UQ Library electronic resources, while other hospital staff members have walk-in access to a wide range of electronic books, journals and databases. Hospital staff also have access to Queensland Health's Clinician's Knowledge Network (CKN), a gateway to electronic books, journals, full-text databases and other resources.

Ensuring hospital staff can find and use the Library's research collections and tools is a priority for the Herston Health Sciences Library. RIS Librarians conduct regular advanced information literacy training to support the research needs of hospital staff. Training includes searching the specialised databases on CKN and on the UQ Library system, managing references using Endnote, keeping up-to-date in the literature of a discipline, and Microsoft Word and Excel.

The document delivery service enables the Library to meet the research and information needs of all of its clients. If an item, whether it is print or electronic, is unavailable from the collections of the UQ Library or CKN, it is obtained from another library. In 2012, the Herston Health Sciences Library received 3,873 document delivery requests from library clients.

During the past year, 1,181 library clients attended 97 information literacy classes held in the Library eZone or in a hospital department. In addition, Library staff delivered 43 tours and talks to 1,604 clients.

A customised website for hospital staff, Herston, Mater and PAH staff <http://www.library.uq.edu.au/hsl/hospital/> provides links to resources and services provided by the Library. A quarterly newsletter is also available to share information. Herston Health Sciences Library staff members are available to assist hospital staff make the most of the resources and services available.

RBWH, along with the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) and UQ Library jointly fund the Herston Health Sciences Library. The UQ Library manages the Herston Health Sciences Library. In 2012, 81,407 people visited the Herston Health Sciences Library and 3,317 clients used the after-hours eZone.

Nicky Foxlee
Manager, Herston Health Sciences Library



Human Research Ethics Committee



Conor Brophy
Chair, Human Research Ethics
Committee, Royal Brisbane and
Women's Hospital

The last year was a period of consolidation for Human Research Ethics Committees (HRECs) in Australia as the changes brought about by the NHMRC National Approach to single ethical review of multi-centre research took effect.

Increasingly, multi-centre research conducted across Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland is reviewed by one of several certified ethics committee so that duplication of ethical review, particularly of clinical trials, is minimised. Consideration of site specific factors, such as contracts and capacity, remain the province of institutional research governance departments.

RBWH HREC continues to provide ethical review for the organisations situated throughout the Herston campus, and has a further role in reviewing studies which are to be conducted elsewhere, including studies in which no campus-sited organisation is involved. The number of such studies is likely to increase in coming years because of the impact of the national approach.

HREC membership remains largely unchanged with 26 people fulfilling the various critical membership categories defined in the NHMRC National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research. These categories are lay members; those with knowledge and current experience in professional care; those with research experience relevant to the research reviewed; lawyers; and pastoral carers. We have been fortunate to have welcomed in 2012 a second person who has a pastoral care role in the community.

The committee reviewed a total of 206 new studies in 2012. This was an increase of 25 per cent on the previous year. Of these, there were 109 studies which were to be conducted at more than one site, and for which the HREC provided single ethical review. The majority, 80 studies, concerned multiple sites in Queensland and the other 29 included sites in other states. Eight studies did not involve RBWH or a campus partner. The median time to final decision for new studies reviewed by the full Committee remains at 25 days, well within the proposed standard of 60 days.

A number of studies, 34, were considered to be exempt from full HREC review, either because they constituted negligible risk and involved only review of existing collections of non-identifiable data, or they were audit activities evaluating standards of care. All these studies were reviewed within a median period of four days.

As well as reviewing studies within and between the HREC meeting, committee members increasingly meet with researchers to discuss issues raised during review. Generally in these cases, a number of ethical issues have been raised which, it is felt, require further exploration with researchers. This has proven to be an effective way of ensuring that concerns are aired but also that mutual understanding is achieved and, thereby, that the committee contributes to the maintenance and improvement of research proposals generally.

The quality of research proposals on campus is evidenced by the excellent, and growing, record of achievement showcased in this report.

Conor Brophy
Chair, Human Research Ethics Committee
Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

