



2014 RBWH Research Report



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Design and typesetting

Clinical Multimedia
Level 8, Block 8
Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital
Butterfield St, Herston, Qld 4029

Phone: +61 7 3646 8111

Web: www.health.qld.gov.au/rbwh

Editors

Prof. Lawrie Powell AC
Assoc. Prof. Janet Davies

Photography

Clinical Multimedia
RBWH Communications and Engagement
The University of Queensland
Queensland University of Technology
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CPX Printing & Logistics
Unit 4, 81 Bishop Street
Kelvin Grove Q. 4059
Ph: 07 3221 1221
Email: sales@cpx.com.au

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RBWH
Royal Brisbane and
Women's Hospital

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Executive Director's report



Dr Amanda Dines
Executive Director
Royal Brisbane and Women's
Hospital

At Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH) we are united in our focus on patient care. Our hospital plays an important role in the delivery of healthcare in Queensland and it is the knowledge gained through our commitment to research that enables us to provide excellent patient care.

We are proud of the multidisciplinary research undertaken at RBWH with medical, nursing and allied health clinicians all contributing to an expansive body of work. In 2014, research by clinicians from over 42 RBWH departments was published in 728 articles in peer review journals and 44 book chapters.

Last year alone more than \$62 million in grant funding was awarded to RBWH clinicians to support clinical research activities on this campus. In the highly competitive research grant application process, this is an excellent reflection of the capability and expertise at our hospital.

Our research outcomes and achievements have been highlighted nationally and internationally with 748 presentations made at conferences and symposia around the world. Research undertaken at the hospital was also showcased at the 23rd RBWH Healthcare Symposium; this annual event was established to provide our researchers an opportunity to share their knowledge and learn from others.

RBWH is among the largest research campuses in Australia. Our shared commitment and strong partnerships with other Metro North Hospital and Health Service providers, Queensland Institute of Medical Research Berghofer (QIMR Berghofer), The University of Queensland (UQ) and Queensland University of Technology (QUT) shape the Herston campus as a centre of excellence for research. The strategic alliance of our partners in developing the Herston Imaging Research Facility (HIRF) places Queensland at the forefront of human imaging for clinical and scientific research.

This strong research culture enables continuous service improvement and the delivery of evidence-based care leading to significant improvements in the quality of our health services.

I thank all staff who contributed to our research success in 2014 and acknowledge the RBWH Director of Research, Professor Lawrie Powell AC, and his team for the leadership role they have played in this achievement.

I would also like to thank the people who lead our research partnerships, in particular, Professor Frank Gannon, Director, QIMR Berghofer; Professor Nicholas Fisk, Executive Dean, Faculty of Medicine + Biomedical 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.

As our best and brightest researchers continue to engage in work that will benefit patient care as well as globally improve human health, I look forward to another year of research innovation at RBWH.

Dr Amanda Dines
Executive Director
Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

Research Director's report



Prof. Lawrie Powell AC
Director
Research

In 2014 RBWH consolidated its impressive clinical research activity and impact across the Herston campus (see page 5). This year we asked heads of Departments to highlight their research achievements and importantly, to report how the research outcomes are being implemented to improve and benefit patient care at RBWH.

The value RBWH places on research collaboration is evident by the breath of partnerships between the various institutions on the campus– The University of Queensland (UQ) Faculties of Medical and Biomedical Sciences and Health and Behavioural Sciences; the Health Sciences building; The UQ Centre for Clinical Research (UQCCR); Queensland Institute of Medical Research Berghofer (QIMR Berghofer); and Queensland University of Technology (QUT). Notably the partnerships 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 Berghofer/RBWH Clinical Research Award Programme.

RBWH is the largest health care centre in the state. Complementing its clinical service is the continued commitment to clinical research at RBWH which would not be possible without the strong support of the RBWH Private Practice Trust Fund (PPTF) and RBWH Foundation, which together allocated \$2.17 million in 2014 for peer-reviewed research including \$1,570,000 for clinical research project grants and \$600,000 in support of clinical research higher degree student scholarships.

There were 263 postgraduate student supervised at RBWH of whom 78% were enrolled in doctoral level studies (PhD, Clinical Doctorate). Students were enrolled at a wide variety of institutions including UQ, QUT and Griffith University, as well as interstate universities such as Monash University and University of New South Wales.

The productivity of RBWH researchers is extensive with 728 unique publications, 44 book chapters and one book reported. An additional 68 papers now in press (not included here) were accepted for publication in 2014. The quality of RBWH research is evident by co-authorship of articles in many high impact international journals including five in The New England Journal of Medicine, eight in The Lancet or Lancet journals and five Nature journals such as Nature Biotechnology and Nature Genetics papers.

The focus of clinical research on healthcare service and clinical practice is evident by 13 Cochrane systematic reviews of clinical research evidence conducted by four service lines involving researchers from Nursing and Midwifery, Cancer Care Services, Women and Newborn Services and Internal Medicine Services. As examples of the impact of clinical research outcomes, teams of RBWH clinicians from within Allied Health, Critical Care and Clinical Support Services, Metro North Mental Health and Women and Newborn Services prepared 18 clinical guidelines and contributed to an Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report.

The research activity has been widely communicated at local, national and international conferences, symposia and meetings. Of 694 presentations 73 % were oral presentations providing RBWH a wide reach for disseminating our research activity. We anticipate that many of these presentations will appear as peer reviewed research articles in the 2015 report. RBWH innovations have been protected by filing of two international patent applications with the World Patent Office, one by Medical Imaging and one by Metro North Mental Health. The quality and relevance of the clinical research has attracted 16 media interview broadcasting the exciting and translation nature of our research programs.

The annual RBWH Healthcare Symposium remained 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.

In collaboration with the Brisbane Diamantina Health Partners, 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.

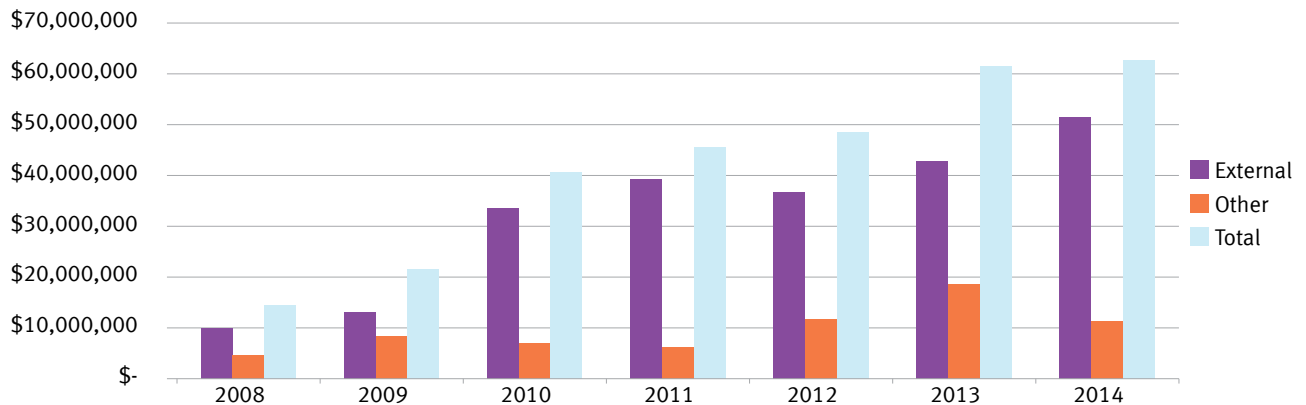
Professor Lawrie Powell AC
Director, Research
Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

Associate Professor Janet Davies BSc PhD
A/Assistant Director Research

Data within this report is based on information supplied to CACR by Departments participating in research at RBWH. Duplicate grants and publications appearing in this report are shown within each participating Department's section but repeat entries have been excluded from the analysis presented on page 5.

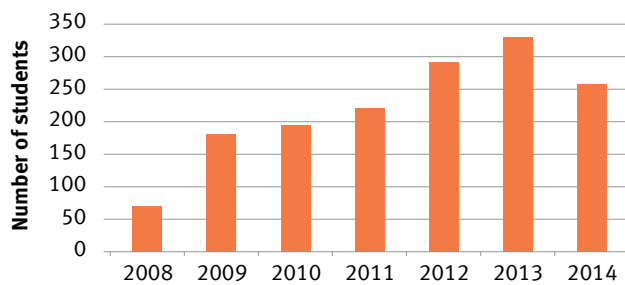
Research performance

Research grants

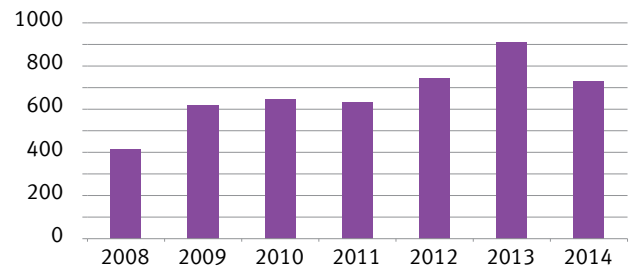


External Research Funding includes funds received from external peer reviewed competitive funding schemes (e.g. National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), National Heart Foundation, Australian Research Council ARC) including project, partnership, linkage or program grants, fellowships and scholarships. Other refers to internal research funds received from internal peer-reviewed funding sources (Queensland Health, RBWH Foundation, RBWH Private Practice Trust Fund and university schemes). Funds received from commercially-sponsored trials contract research are not included. Grants include those reported by Departments where an RBWH researcher is a chief or Co-Investigator. Grants for multidisciplinary teams reported by more than one Department have been included only once.

Supervised Post Graduate Students



Publications*



Proportion enrolled in different higher degree programs

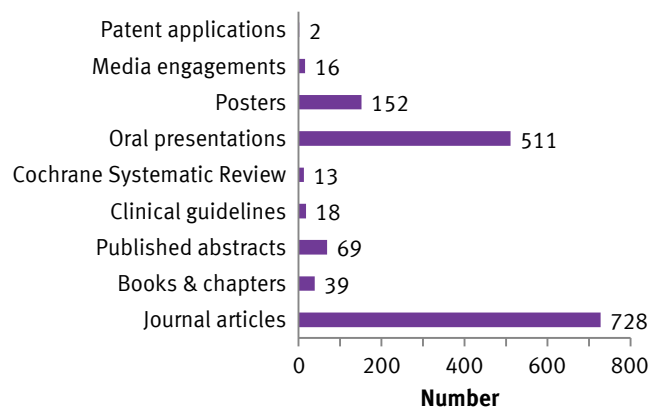
PhD/ doctorates	78%
Masters/ other	22%

Proportion enrolled at different Universities

UQ	72%
QUT	13%
Griffith	7%
Other	8%

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

Communication of research



Publications include peer-reviewed journal articles, where an RBWH researcher is a named co-author. Books, book chapters, electronic publications, abstracts, conference proceedings and articles 'in press' are not included. Papers co-authored by researchers in more than one Department have been counted only once.

Queensland University of Technology



Professor Ross Young
Executive Dean
Faculty of Health
Queensland University
of Technology

Queensland University of Technology (QUT) has continued its strong relationship with the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH) with significant accomplishments in health-related research and training in 2014. Much of QUT's involvement is through its Faculty of Health, the Science and Engineering Faculty and the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation (IHBI).

The strong relationship between QUT and RBWH promotes novel research, training and education into patient care and advances in health sciences. Adjunct and joint appointments bring together multidisciplinary teams to improve health services, nursing, cancer care, nutrition and chronic disease intervention. Education of future researchers and clinicians remains a strong priority.

The Herston Imaging Research Facility (HIRF), a joint venture between The University of Queensland (UQ), Metro North Hospital and Health Service through the RBWH, QUT and the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute was completed in 2014, and will advance research into the earlier detection of cancer, psychological disorders and neurological disease, as well as studies to profile patients for individualised treatment according to their level of risk. The alliance will see Queensland at the forefront of human imaging research, education and clinical care.

The Australian Centre for Health Services Innovation (AusHSI) has continued to build health services research capacity by funding academics and health professionals to work together to deliver solutions to important health services challenges. A joint partnership between the Queensland Government, RBWH, UQ and QUT, the Centre has moved into a phase of expansion and consolidation. Significant effort has been put into securing additional financial partners, building capacity through consultancy, and running training and skills development programs. The successful 'Stimulus Grant' funding scheme is supporting a number of ongoing projects at the RBWH along with PhD scholarships. There was an enthusiastic response to these rounds, with the Centre currently supporting a variety of collaborative clinician – researcher teams.

QUT and RBWH researchers now partner in two NHMRC Centres for Research Excellence (CRE). The CRE for End-of-Life Care helps Australians engage in much needed conversations about end of life care. Located at QUT, the CRE generates new knowledge about health service delivery at the end of life and supports people across different parts of the system. Involving researchers from the RBWH, the CRE builds on a successful research partnership around palliative care through the Centre for Palliative Care Research and Education (CPCRE). Led by a consortium of RBWH, The Prince Charles Hospital, QUT, Karuna Hospice Services, and CheckUP, this Queensland Health initiative is improving state-wide palliative care services through education and research endeavours. The \$2.5M NHMRC Chronic Kidney Disease CRE is dedicated to improving knowledge and management of chronic kidney disease (CKD) across the health care spectrum, and is funded for five years from 2014. The CRE6-CKD involves investigators and collaborators in almost every state/territory is led by UQ with QUT, Queensland Health, RBWH and James Cook University the other key state partners. Research themes include establishing a national CKD surveillance network, improving CKD practice improvement in primary care, nursing care and renal supportive care, establishing the first Australian BioBank for CKD, and health economic evaluations.

QUT is a major university partner of the RBWH with a strong focus on nursing research and training. A number of longstanding partnerships and collaborations in this area continued to grow in 2014. Researchers from the RBWH/QUT Centre for Clinical Nursing are working together to further research around evidence based practice in nursing via the Nursing Research and Development Unit, a key aspect of the Centre. The Centre also includes an Education Unit, designed to develop and support a culture of continuous learning and enquiry that values education and professional practice. Together with the activities conducted through this centre, the establishment of three QUT RBWH Nursing Professorial Units in Cancer Nursing, Renal Nursing, and Intensive Care Nursing have continued and bring about improvements in outcomes for patients at the hospital.

Enrolment of clinical professionals in higher degree research programs at QUT remains popular with candidates enjoying the benefit of expert supervisory teams across both academic and hospital settings. In 2014, QUT undergraduate students participating in the Vacation Research Experience Scheme (VRES) working closely with RBWH staff to foster links between the two organisations. Publication outputs also show productive links between academic staff, clinicians and students in emergency medicine, health services, palliative care, nursing practice, aged care, nutrition and dietetics and cancer. Outputs in international journals, such as *'Supportive Care in Cancer'* and *'International Psychogeriatrics'*, show the worldwide significance of our joint research. New grants commenced in 2014 with Chief Investigators from QUT and RBWH in cancer, nutrition and dietetics, child health and aged care.

QUT is excited to continue to build strong networks with the RBWH between clinicians, specialists and researchers from the health care sector and universities. HIRF will be a major competitive advantage in the future development of clinical research collaborations.

Professor Ross Young
Executive Dean
Faculty of Health
Queensland University of Technology

The University of Queensland



Professor Melissa Brown
Deputy Executive Dean and Associate Dean (Research)
Faculty of Medicine + Biomedical Sciences
The University of Queensland



Professor Christina Lee
Associate Dean (Research)
Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences
The University of Queensland

In 2014 we continued to strengthen the long-standing relationship between The University of Queensland (UQ) and the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH), through a number of important joint ventures and new initiatives.

2014 saw the establishment of two new Health Faculties, the Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (M+BS) and the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences (HaBS), replacing the previous Faculty of Health Sciences. Both M+BS and HaBS highly value hospital-university partnerships and have a strong presence on the Herston campus, involving collaboration across research, teaching and clinical service delivery.

Schools and dedicated research centres within M+BS and HaBS act as the principal source of contact between UQ and RBWH. The Schools of Medicine, Nursing, Midwifery & Social Work, Dentistry, and Public Health all have a presence on the Herston campus, and staff and students engage collaboratively in research of direct relevance to the day-to-day activities of RBWH.

A number of research centres in the School of Medicine are based at RBWH, including the Burns, Trauma and Critical Care Research Centre (BTCCRC), directed by Professor Jeffrey Lipman, and the Perinatal Research Centre led by Professor Paul Colditz. These and other UQ research centres have direct involvement with hospital units, departments and clinicians.

Two research centres in the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences are situated on the Herston campus. The Centre of National Research on Disability and Rehabilitation Medicine (CONROD), directed by Professor Gwendolen Jull, focuses on physical and psychological rehabilitation, with an emphasis on traffic-related injuries, and has recently been re-funded by the Motor Accident Insurance Commission. The Centre for Youth Substance Abuse Research (CYSAR), funded by philanthropy from the Graeme Wood Foundation and directed by Professor Wayne Hall, conducts research on the pressing problems related to misuse of alcohol and other drugs amongst young Queenslanders.

Also co-located with the hospital are the UQ Centre for Clinical Research (UQCCR) and the UQ Oral Health Centre (UQOHC). UQCCR 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 newly built UQOHC, housing UQ's School of Dentistry, was opened by Australian Health Minister Sussan Ley in early 2015. It is the largest and most advanced tertiary oral health facility in Australia, bringing together academics, researchers, leading practitioners and top tier students who are united by their passion to improve the lives of everyday Australians through better dental care.

The university is excited to be one of the partners of the newly established Herston Imaging Research Facility (HIRF), which is due to be officially opened towards the end of 2015, and is positioned between the UQCCR and QIMR Berghofer on an outpatient floor with direct access to the hospital. HIRF is a joint venture between UQ, RBWH, QUT, and QIMR Berghofer, and is the only one of its kind in Australia, with state-of-the-art molecular and functional imaging equipment (3-T MRI, PET/CT and PET/MRI scanners) that has the potential to revolutionise research and health care delivery.

In 2014 there was further recognition from RBWH and the University on the critical importance of working together to deliver excellence in healthcare, research, and education, with both institutions being foundation partners of the city-wide Brisbane Diamantina Health Partners. Professor Gerard Holtmann continues to oversee the clinical teaching and research partnerships across all the health science disciplines at UQ, and Professor Leonie Callaway continues in her role of overseeing clinical activities and engagement between the university and all hospitals in the northern cluster, including RBWH.

The University continues to support the research activities of clinicians appointed as academic title holders of UQ, committing funds towards a scheme focused on fostering hospital-based clinical research specifically being undertaken by UQ title holders. UQ is pleased to announce that 3 of the 5 grants awarded in 2014 went to clinicians affiliated with the RBWH. Also, introduction of template governance agreements in 2014 between UQ and RBWH has meant that collaboration between university and RBWH researchers and clinicians has never been easier.

The University looks forward to continuing to strengthen its relationship with RBWH, with the aspiration of working collaboratively with the hospital to achieve improved healthcare delivery for the benefit of Queensland patients.

Professor Melissa Brown
Deputy Executive Dean and Associate Dean (Research)
Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
The University of Queensland

Professor Christina Lee
Associate Dean (Research)
Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences
The University of Queensland

The University of Queensland Centre for Clinical Research



Prof. Murray Mitchell
Director
UQ Centre for Clinical
Research

The UQ Centre for Clinical Research (UQCCR) continues to represent the very best of Australian health and medical innovation, and I am proud to share with you this report on our many achievements throughout 2014. As you read about the people and projects making a difference to what clinicians know and can do about human health at all ages, you'll notice a common theme emerging: research excellence.

We have always pursued best practice and set the benchmarks for collaborative clinical research. The difference this year, however, has been the wider recognition of our excellent work, which has spurred us on to push the boundaries further.

Our efforts have attracted support from new and existing collaboration partners in Australia and around the world. This includes funding of more than \$6 million from the National Health and Medical Research Council. With a 23 percent success rate, the Centre has exceeded the national average for grant applications by nearly 10 percent. More than \$600,000 from the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Foundation has enabled various important research projects to advance. Dr Cynthia Forlini received more than \$360,000 from the Australian Research Council for a Discovery Early Career Research Award.

We welcomed many distinguished guests during the year, such as the Queensland Chief Scientist, Dr Geoff Garrett; the former Minister for Health, Laurence Springborg; and the Assistant Director-General, Dr Christine Williams, from the Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts.

In July, members of New Zealand's parliamentary Select Committee for Health visited UQCCR to discuss children's health and skin cancer with our own experts and the Queensland Cancer Council.

Our researchers were profiled by international and Australian media, including TIME's NextGen Leaders of 2014 and the SBS channel's 'Life on Us' documentary. We were proud to see the National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee add Dr Janet Hammil's name to the Coralie Ober Alcohol Honour Roll, for her tireless research, advocacy, and support for individuals living with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

We congratulated two PhD candidates on winning major awards. Hosam Zowawi received the prestigious Rolex Award for Enterprise for his pioneering work on antibiotic resistant bacteria. Betoul Baz was highly successful in several UQ competitions and won Best Student Poster at the Australasian Society for Dermatology Research-Cutaneous Biology Conference. All our students contribute to UQCCR's ongoing success, and we appreciate the fresh curiosity and creative thinking they bring to the Centre.

We also congratulated our valuable supporter, Shimadzu Australasia, on receiving an Excellence in Industry Engagement award from the UQ Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

In 2014 we recognised the outstanding efforts of ten students and early career researchers. At the UQCCR Shimadzu Awards Seminar, Dr Barbara Lingwood, Dr Rebecca Pelekanos, Dr Jacki Liddle, Dr Carlos Salomon, Dr Susan Sullivan, Dr Renee Richards, Dr Jatin Patel, Itopa Ajayi, Matthew Roberts and Mihar Kobayashi all received awards.

Excellence can only be achieved when everyone shows deep commitment to common goals. I would like to acknowledge and thank the entire UQCCR staff – research, clinical, academic and professional – for their dedication to their own work and for the support they give each other.

This report is an inspiring collection of stories about the people and the passion that define research excellence at UQCCR. It's a satisfying 'farewell salute' to my time as the Centre's Director. In 2015, I return to the lab as a Senior Research Leader, focusing on projects that support the 'Mothers, Babies and Lifelong Health' theme. Professor David Paterson has accepted the role of Acting Director and will be overseeing the achievements you'll read about in next year's RBWH report.

Professor Murray Mitchell
Director
UQ Centre for Clinical Research



Queensland Institute of Medical Research Berghofer (QIMR Berghofer) Director's report



Prof. Frank Gannon

Director and Chief Executive Officer
QIMR Berghofer

It is a pleasure to pen some words for the RBWH Annual Research Report. The symbolism of QIMR Berghofer engaging with the RBWH through this measure is highly appropriate given the extent to which our organisation and the RBWH work together.

QIMR Berghofer is committed to achieving better health through research. This translation step requires collaboration with clinicians and indeed the definition of problems by them. We can proudly point to a growing number of such interactions as the QIMR Berghofer researchers engage increasingly extensively into translation, and as our RBWH clinical colleagues recognise the skill base that is on their doorstep. One clear manifestation of this is the fact that the three Programs at QIMR Berghofer – Cancer, Infectious Diseases, and Mental Health/Complex Disorders – are all now headed by clinicians well known and active within the RBWH (Professors Geoff Hill, James McCarthy and Michael Breakspear). Professors Barbara Leggett and Graham Radford-Smith also have their research groups well integrated into the QIMR Berghofer, and the conjoint laboratories have been part of our overlapping research activities for many years now.

A further visible manifestation of our collaboration is in the Herston Imaging Research Facility which has now been completed and established and is beginning to provide an exciting new source of data for researchers and clinicians. We are also joined as partners in the Brisbane Diamantina Health Partnership which includes Metro North Hospital and Health Service, Metro South Hospital and Health Service, Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service, Mater Health Services, the University of Queensland, the Queensland University of Technology, the Translational Research Institute, and QIMR

Berghofer. This is an ambitious development which aims to bring together clinical, research and training activities in a more integrated manner. This process has just started recently on a Brisbane-wide basis and there is much to be gained from continuing to work on making it a thriving entity. It will provide a great template for future collaborations between QIMR Berghofer and clinicians, but in particular with those on the campus.

A new dimension that is opening up is related to clinical trials. The support of the RBWH has ensured that expert statistical advice is available, to those planning studies in the hospital, on the doorstep through the QIMR Berghofer/RBWH Statistics Unit. We also have established the Clinical Trials and Biostatistics Unit to help in the design and data analysis of complex clinical trials. And we are now the sole owners of Q-Pharm, the professional clinical trial company, and hope that this will yield even more joint engagement in clinical trials.

In summary therefore it is a real benefit for QIMR Berghofer to share the campus with the RBWH. We believe the reciprocal is also true, and we will continue to look for more collaborative opportunities to build on those that already exist.

Professor Frank Gannon

Director and Chief Executive Officer
QIMR Berghofer

RBWH Foundation



Mr Peter Treseder AM
Chief Executive Officer
RBWH Foundation



As the charity arm of Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH), our mission is to raise money for the hospital so it can further medical research, purchase equipment and develop programs that will assist in achieving optimal health outcomes for its patients from Brisbane and beyond. We are delighted that in 2013/14, we were able to increase the level of support we provided to the hospital, distributing \$4.7 million towards research and other health initiatives.

Clinical research has without doubt always been the primary focus of RBWH Foundation and our fundraising activities. We particularly like to assist in nurturing young researchers as well as providing seed funding for new projects so they can be developed to the point of applying for grants from the larger funding bodies.

Our main conduit for distributing funds to new research programs is through our annual Research Grant Awards program. These grants, which are determined by the RBWH Research Advisory Committee, are presented at a ceremony held each February in the hospital's Education Centre. Over \$1.8 million in grants and scholarships was distributed at the 2014 Research Grant Awards ceremony.

In 2013/14, RBWH Foundation introduced the 'Diamond Care Grants' with funds raised through the inaugural Weekend to End Women's Cancers. Due to this event's enormous success, RBWH Foundation was able to distribute over \$760,000 in grants for a mix of research, programs and equipment focussed on improving outcomes and quality of care for patients with female-specific cancers.

Aside from grants, RBWH Foundation continues to support ongoing research in a number of key areas. Examples of these include:

- **Burns, Trauma and Critical Care Research Centre** – Through corporate sponsorship and individual pledges, RBWH Foundation enabled the centre to continue its research across a range of projects ranging from the application of antibiotic therapy to critically-ill patients, to studying the consequences of bleeding on cerebral microcirculation after head injury.
- **Neurology Research Centre** – Funding generated through Foundation events, donations and community activities over the last six years, has supported research into determining reliable markers for the progression of Motor Neurone Disease and investigating how the disease starts and spreads through such studies as the 'handedness' project. The Foundation also supports a range of research projects related to Stroke rehabilitation and secondary Stroke prevention.
- **Perinatal Research Centre** – The Foundation provides ongoing funding to the Perinatal Research team which conducts a range of research projects including testing a new protocol to provide an effective antiepileptic treatment for neonatal seizures in order reduce brain injury and a collaboration with University of Qatar to produce 'wiring maps' of the developing brain.

Many of the hospital's main research centre/groups, such as those listed above, now have established tied funds with the Foundation to house money received through sponsorship, special donations, bequests and grants. These tied funds allow researchers easy access to their funding as and when required. These research centre/groups also actively engage with the Foundation to assist in fundraising for their work.

We would like to thank the many individuals, businesses and community groups whose financial contributions to RBWH Foundation have made the funding of many of these research projects and grants possible. These contributions not only provide monetary support, but also remind our researchers, doctors and nurses that they are not working in isolation, but as part of a community with the same drive and commitment towards a healthy future.

Mr Peter Treseder AM
Chief Executive Officer
RBWH Foundation

Herston Health Services Library



Ms Nicky Foxlee

Manager

Herston Health Sciences Library
and UQ Dentistry Library
The University of Queensland

The Herston Health Sciences Library (HHSL) is one of 12 branches of the University of Queensland (UQ) Library. The HHSL provides resources and services to support the research, clinical, teaching and learning needs of hospital staff located on the Herston site.

During the past year, the librarians conducted approximately 20 individual research consultations each week and undertook over 141 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 contributed their expertise to systematic review and clinical guideline groups and provided metrics assistance for grant applications.

Liaison librarians from the UQ Library's Client Services Team at the HHSL provide expert advice to Hospital staff from across hospital departments and units to support all stages of the research cycle:

- Literature searches
- Individual research consultations
- Metrics for research grant applications and measuring research impact
- 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)
- Obtaining material not held in the Clinician's Knowledge Network or UQ Library collections

RBWH staff have access to world-class research and scholarship through the print resources provided. The UQ Library has one of the largest academic collections in Australia with over 2 million volumes. Together, with the PACE Health Sciences Library and UQ/Mater McAuley Library, the HHSL provides an exceptional print collection of health and medical books, and journals. In 2014 with the move of the UQ School of Dentistry to the Herston Campus, the Dentistry Library was merged with the HHSL, extending the collection of the latter.

During 2014, the Herston Collection Development Committee – comprising representatives from the Hospitals and the University – purchased 643 new items; 11,331 items were borrowed from the collection; and 55,251 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 UQ academic titles 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 members 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. Liaison librarians conduct regular advanced information literacy training to support the research needs of Hospital staff. Training includes searching the specialized health databases to find best evidence, expert searching for systematic reviews, managing references using Endnote and training on Microsoft Word and Excel. During the past year, 4,463 library clients attended 201 information literacy classes or talks held in the HHSL eZone or in a Hospital Department. Library staff responded to a total of 6,269 information enquiries made in person, by email or on the telephone.

The document delivery service enables the Library to meet the research and information needs of all of its clients by obtaining items –print or electronic – that are unavailable from its own collections. In 2014, the HHSL received 3,442 document delivery requests from across our client groups.

RBWH, the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) and UQ Library jointly fund the HHSL and it is managed by the UQ Library. In 2014, 90,791 people visited the HHSL and 22,331 clients used the 24/7 eZone.

Ms Nicky Foxlee

Manager

Herston Health Sciences Library and UQ Dentistry Library
The University of Queensland

Human Research Ethics Committee



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

The role of a human research ethics committee (HREC) is to consider research and, from the proposal documentation, provide an independent assessment of whether a study will deliver information of value and adhere to recognised principles of ethical research conduct. These principles are set out in the NHMRC National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research, conform to international consensus on ethical best practice in human research and focus on protecting the interests of participants. The National Statement also defines the manner in which a HREC functions and the minimum representation required on a committee. The Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital (RBWH) HREC fulfils this and more with a diverse membership of 28 people: academic researchers and clinicians from within and outside the RBWH campus; lay men and women; lawyers; and those who fulfil a pastoral care role in the community. The Committee is fortunate in having maintained a highly experienced core membership for several years, which attests to the very strong commitment to research and voluntary service of the group.

As in previous years, the RBWH HREC continues to see an extensive range and number of health-related research. Submissions come from all research active partners on site on the RBWH campus but also further afield within Metro North Hospital and Health Service and elsewhere from other health care and academic institutions in Queensland and interstate. The authority to provide research ethics approval for organisations throughout Australia is based in the 2013 renewal of NHMRC Certification for RBWH HREC to undertake single ethical review of multicentre research. In terms of the nature of the research considered by the HREC, the trend established in 2013 of increasing diversity in research aims and methodologies has continued. There has been further growth in the areas of health service research, natural history of disease, and studies investigating predictors and biomarkers of illness.

The total numbers of studies increased from approximately 200 in 2013 to 266 in 2014. The time taken for review of applications continues to be low despite the increased work-load, in part because of two changes made to procedures in 2014. The first was to reduce the interval between the submission closing date and the HREC meeting from three to two weeks. The second was to introduce an expedited process for review of low or negligible risk studies by which submission may be made at any time during the month and progressed to review between meetings. The changes have resulted in the work-load for the HREC Office and Committee members being not only more intense, because managed in a shorter time, but also continuous as new low or negligible risk studies are distributed to reviewers at any time. Where a particular scientific question arises or additional expertise is deemed necessary, expert reviewers external to the Committee are recruited to provide further opinions on studies. Even when expert reviewers are enlisted, the HREC secretariat is able to progress submissions and distribute to reviewers within a time period of 3 days for low or negligible risk studies and 5 days for all others. The response of reviewers is such that the time from submission to communicating the ethical decision was shorter in 2014 than in any previous period. In 2014 it was 11 days for low or negligible risk proposals and 19 days for medium and high risk studies. The equivalent latter figure for 2013 was 26 days and the national benchmark for time to approval is set at 60 days.

The Committee is highly supportive of the research showcased in this report, and extremely committed to furtherance of the strong culture of ethical investigation within the RBWH campus and more broadly mirrored throughout MNHHS and its research partners.

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