

Medical Services



Dr Judy Graves
Executive Director
Medical Services

Medical Services is responsible for providing support to all areas of RBWH in all aspects of medical administration. The Service Line encompasses several departments and a key research governance committee that contribute to invaluable research activities for the organisation.

The RBWH Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) is one of two HRECs in the Metro North Hospital and Health Service. The RBWH HREC is registered with the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) (Registration No: EC00172) and is certified by the NHMRC as a lead HREC under the National Approach to Single Ethical Review of Multi-Centre Research. HREC provides the appropriate regulatory, ethical and scientific standards oversight for research activities at the RBWH, and in 2015 considered 227 new research proposals and approved 207.

The CPCRE conducts palliative care translational research that improves the links between research and practice and supports palliative care service delivery by providing evidence based information for the workforce. The Centre Director and Clinical Research Program Leader have been awarded funding for collaborative research projects in palliative care from a variety of local and national research funding organisations. These include; NHMRC, Australian Research Council, Cancer Council Queensland, Mater Medical Research Institute, Department of Health (DOH) and Australian Government.

The RBWH Safety and Quality Unit undertake research activities as part of the quality improvement in health care service delivery. In 2015 the RBWH Safety and Quality Unit completed a research project in partnership with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality In Health Care and three other Australian Hospitals. This project investigated whether ICD coded data could be used as a potential quality improvement data set for front line clinical teams. The outcome of this project is expected to be published in 2017.

Centre for Palliative Care Research and Education



Prof. Patsy Yates
Director
Centre for Palliative Care Research and Education

The primary role of the CPCRE is to enhance palliative care services in Queensland through research and education endeavours. To achieve these aims, CPCRE operates as a ‘centre without walls’, committed to building and fostering partnerships with the palliative care community in its endeavours.

Highlights of 2015:

The Centre Director and Clinical Research Program Leader have been awarded NHMRC, Australian Research Council, Cancer Council Queensland, Mater Medical Research Institute, Department of Health (DOH) and Australian Government funding for collaborative research projects in palliative care. Research projects are multi-disciplinary and are across institutions, and project results have been published in national and international peer reviewed publications. Director and Clinical Research Program Leader hold appointments on national and international Palliative Care/Oncological and Nursing advisory boards/reference groups.

CPCRE education activities include: The General Practice Palliative Care Education Program; The Program of Experience in the Palliative Approach; The Evidence Based Palliative Care Strategy; The Queensland Palliative Care Research Group and Workforce Development Programs. The Centre disseminates pertinent Palliative Care education and research information to health professionals via: the CPCRE Website, CPCRE Newsletter(quarterly), CPCRE Calendar (biannually), Monthly E-Bulletins, the Annual Research Conference and the Annual Palliative Care Update Symposium (topic rotates 3 yearly between general medicine, oncology and supportive care).

Benefits for clinical practice:

The centre’s work focuses on:

- Developing the capacity of the palliative care workforce to provide quality palliative care
- Improving the links between research and practice in palliative care
- Undertaking research to enhance the quality of palliative care
- Providing information which supports the delivery of palliative care services.

Supervised Post-graduate Research Students

Name	Current Studies University <i>(duration)</i>	Research Project Title	Supervisors <i>(RBWH staff in bold)</i>
Vanessa Brunelli	PhD, QUT (2013–2017)	Evaluating a program for developing specialist cancer nurse competencies for effective and sustainable self-management of dyspnoea in lung cancer patients	Patsy Yates , Carol Windsor
Elise Button	PhD, QUT (2014–2018)	Identifying risk of deteriorating and dying in people with haematological malignancy	Patsy Yates , Raymond Chan , Shirley Chambers, Jason Butler
Elisabeth Campbell	Masters by Research, QUT (2014–2018)	The development of a scale to measure cancer patients’ self-efficacy with managing symptoms and treatment side effects	Patsy Yates , Kimberly Alexander
Jennifer Fox	PhD, QUT (2012–2015)	The transition to palliative care: A critical exploration in the context of metastatic melanoma	Patsy Yates
Alaa Hafiz	PhD, QUT (2013–2017)	Enhancing the competence of paediatric palliative care nurses in Saudi Arabia	Patsy Yates , Joanne Ramsbotham
James Hughes	PhD, QUT (2014–2019)	Person, environment and health and illness factors influencing time to analgesia and patient experience of pain management	Patsy Yates , Kimberly Alexander

Centre for Palliative Care Research and Education (cont)

Supervised Post-graduate Research Students (cont)

Name	Current Studies University (duration)	Research Project Title	Supervisors (RBWH staff in bold)
Jennifer Leutenegger	Masters by Research, QUT (2015–2019)	Integrating rural and urban model of nursing care – <i>How do we prepare for the virtual chemotherapy experience?</i>	Patsy Yates, Kimberly Alexander, Raymond Chan
Lawrence Lim	Professional Doctorate, QUT (2012–2017)	An assessment of the Continuous Quality Improvement implementation in palliative care services	Patsy Yates, Shirley Chambers
Nguyen Thuy Ly	PhD, QUT (2015–2019)	Symptom cluster management and quality of life among patients with cancer in Vietnam	Patsy Yates, Kimberly Alexander
Sarah Northfield	Masters by Research, QUT (2014–2017)	Referral processes to specialist palliative care services: an Australian practice survey of health care professionals	Patsy Yates, Raymond Chan, John Rosenberg
Doreen Tapsall	Professional Doctorate, QUT (2011–2019)	Design, implementation and evaluation of a new model of nurse education in the haematology/ oncology setting	Patsy Yates, Kimberly Alexander
Sudeep Raj Bista	PhD, Griffith University (2011–2015)	Improving analgesia in cancer patients	Janet Hardy
Chris McKeon	Master of Science, UWS (2009–2015)	Electroacupuncture in chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting	Janet Hardy
Rani George	PhD, Griffith University (2013–2017)	Individualisation of pain management in cancer patients – <i>Methadone</i>	Janet Hardy
Tony Hall	PhD, UQ, Griffith, Mater Medical Research Institute (awarded 2015)	The pharmaco-kinetic, pharmaco-dynamic and adverse event relationships of gabapentin and pregabalin in the management of persistent pain	Janet Hardy
Claire White	Doctor of Medicine, Queens University, Belfast (awarded 2015)	Willingness of palliative care patients and relatives to undergo research in palliative care	Janet Hardy

Research Fellows

Name	Type of Fellowship	Research Program	University (years)
John Rosenberg	Research Fellow	Palliative Care Services	QUT (2014–2017)

Research Awards and Achievements

Recipient	Award	Event
Rose Kamateros, Cathie Pigott, Heather Watson, Kylie Ash, Patsy Yates , Jo-Anne Martin, Chelsea Victor, Jess Jude, Fleur Llewelyn, Shannon Uren, Di Saward, Bobbi Moore, Tim Shaw, Meinir Krishnasamy	Best Poster Award	CNSA 18 th Winter Congress, 14 th –16 th June 2015

Safety and Quality Unit



Therese Lee
Director
Safety and Quality Unit

The Safety and Quality Unit is responsible for the provision of organisational services based on a commitment to continuous quality improvement aimed at enhancing patient focused services and achieving the best standards of care. The unit also provides support to the Safety and Quality Committee and service lines to promote and facilitate service improvements to enhance safer patient outcomes.

Research has focussed on falls prevention and reducing harm and the impacts of frequent patient moves on clinical outcomes and the overall patient experience. Additionally, RBWH remains focussed on strengthening consumer engagement across the facility to better inform service design and delivery to improve the patient journey. The Safety and Quality Unit continues the focus on patient safety and Root Cause Analysis as a component of clinical incident management.

