

# Nursing and Midwifery Services



**Adj. Assoc. Prof. Alanna Geary**  
Executive Director  
Nursing and Midwifery  
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Nursing and Midwifery Services has a strong track record of research activity that focuses on improving patient care. We recognise the clinical benefits of research participation to patients and of research itself in leading to advances in health care. We also know that participation in research may allow access to novel technologies earlier than other institutions and research-active environments may deliver better care. For example, our work around IV access, wound care (including pressure ulcer prevention), falls and infection have prompted changes in policy and practice locally and have been influential in informing international guidelines. The reputation of our research staff has also been important in attracting major research grants (for example we have had Chief Investigator status on seven, multi-site NHMRC (National Health and Medical Research Council) grants in the last six years). These grants not only contribute to a culture of research and best practice but also provide significant savings for the organisation. One example is our current DRESSING (ADding negative pRESSure to improve healing) Trial, in which half of all negative pressure wound dressings are being paid for by the research grant; a saving to the organisation of around \$100,000.

Our research outcomes continue to grow; during 2015 we received seven research grants (including one NHMRC project grant); published 26 peer reviewed papers, and presented several invited papers at international conferences. In addition, our commitment to evidence based practice is evidenced by our contributions to the Cochrane Collaboration (15 active reviews addressing nursing interventions) and being an Editor for the Cochrane Wounds Group. We also act as reviewers for a number of highly ranked journals, such as BMJ (British Medical Journal), International Journal of Nursing Studies, BMJ Safety and Quality, British Journal of Surgery, the Australian Medical Journal, and World Evidence-Based Nursing.

Nursing and Midwifery Services supports innovative clinical and academic partnerships in the form of Nursing Professorial and Clinical Academic Units. The Professorial Unit and Clinical Academic unit model uses an embedded scholar model to foster partnerships between clinical nursing leadership, academic leadership and clinicians to advance the influence of high quality nursing care on patient outcomes. The Professorial Unit goals are to encourage a nursing research and a culture of clinical scholarship through leading and supporting nurse-led practice focused research, grant applications, dissemination of research at conferences and publications, and encouragement of nurses to pursue postgraduate qualifications. Nursing Services has partnered with the School of Nursing, QUT to support three Nursing Professorial Units; Cancer Professorial Precinct, Intensive Care Professorial Unit and the Kidney Health Professorial Unit and one Clinical Academic Unit in Mental Health. The Professorial Units are operationalised differently; the Cancer Professorial Precinct and Kidney Health Professorial Unit use an in-kind model of academic collaboration whereas the Intensive Care Nursing Professorial Unit was supported in 2015 by a Professor of nursing position; a joint appointment between the RBWH and the School of Nursing, QUT. Further in mid-2015 a second Professor of Nursing in neurosciences and rehabilitation commenced as a joint appointment between the RBWH and the School of Nursing, QUT. The Mental Health Clinical Academic Unit is operationalised with an embedded scholar funded by the Queensland Office of Health and Medical Research. The achievements and contributions of the individual Nursing Professorial Units will be reported under the respective service lines.

## Nursing and Midwifery Research Centre



**Prof. Joan Webster**  
Nursing Director  
Research

The primary aim of the Nursing and Midwifery Research Centre is to generate best evidence for acute healthcare practice. We achieve this through conducting interdisciplinary, independently funded clinical trials and cohort studies that focus on improving patient outcomes and by producing Cochrane systematic reviews. We prioritise areas identified by the Australian Commission on Health Care Standards, such as 'Preventing and Controlling Health Care Infections' and 'Preventing Pressure Injuries'. For example, during 2015, we completed two large, NHMRC funded, multi-centre trials. The first tested a patient-centred intervention to prevent pressure injury and the second assessed the impact of various peripheral intravenous access securement devices on the incidence of catheter-related infections. We also commenced a large NHMRC funded trial testing the effectiveness of negative pressure wound therapy on surgical site infection. These studies and others demonstrate our emphasis on improving patient outcomes by focussing on clinically important questions, generated by problems in the delivery of acute health care. Our work in these areas, particularly in the area of intravenous access, pressure injury prevention and management and other aspects of wound care has influenced international practice guidelines and is highly cited.

Our combined track record demonstrates our strong group collaboration and provides evidence of our individual contributions to the overall output of the Nursing and Midwifery Research Centre's program of research. Our track record during 2015 continued to grow with staff from the unit involved in 9 successful research grants (including an NHMRC project grant) and 26 publications. We also have 15 active Cochrane reviews of health-care interventions, which are updated every two years.

These outcomes could not be achieved without broad, interdisciplinary collaboration within our health service and across local, national and international institutions.

Our other focus is on the development of a research culture amongst nurses and midwives. This is achieved in a number of ways: 1) our highly skilled staff provide supervision for higher degree students; 2) nurses and midwives from clinical areas act as research nurses and, through such exposure, frequently go on to enrol in a higher degree; 3) we conduct a 12-week 'Evidence Base Practice' training program in which students complete a systematic review of a clinical problem, which is relevant to their area of practice. Many of these students go on to present their reviews at national conferences and a number have used the information from the review to change practice in their area; 4) each month we coordinate the 'Nursing and Midwifery Grand Rounds', in which results of research studies are presented; 5) we provide support, mentorship and expertise to assist novice researchers prepare research proposals and publications.

### Supervised Post-graduate Research Students

Name	Current Studies University (duration)	Research Project Title	Supervisors (RBWH staff in bold)
Nicole Marsh	PhD Griffith University (2015 – 2018)	Prevention of peripheral venous catheter failure	Claire Rickard, <b>Joan Webster</b> , Marie Cooke

### Research Fellows

Name	Type of Fellowship	Research Program	University (years)
Claire Rickard	Honorary Research Fellow	IV Access	Griffith University (2007–2018)
Amanda Ullman	Honorary Research Fellow	IV Access	Griffith University (2014–2017)
Gillian Ray-Barruel	Honorary Research Fellow	IV Access	Griffith University (2015–2018)
Samantha Keogh	Honorary Research Fellow	IV Access	Griffith University (2011–2017)
Brigid Gillespie	Honorary Research Fellow	Wounds	Griffith University (2007–2018)

## Nursing and Midwifery Research Centre (cont)

### Research Fellows (cont)

Name	Type of Fellowship	Research Program	University (years)
Debra Anderson	Honorary Research Fellow	Women's Health	Griffith University (2007–2018)
Peter Lewis	Honorary Research Fellow	Nursing assessment	QUT (2007–2018)
Sonya Osborne	Honorary Research Fellow	Nursing assessment	QUT (2016–2018)
Ann Bonner	Honorary Research Fellow	Renal	QUT (2011–2018)

### Current RBWH Led Research Activity

RBWH Lead Researchers	Collaborative Researchers (RBWH staff in bold)	Research Project Title
Joan Webster	<b>Nicole Marsh (Nursing and Midwifery Research Centre; and Surgical Services), Emily Larsen (Nursing and Midwifery Research Centre; and Cancer Care Services), Nicole Gavin (Cancer Care Services), Nahid Choudry (UQCCR), Anthony Allworth (Infectious Diseases), Catriona Booker (Nursing Education)</b>	Biopatch™ or Kendall™ AMD Foam Disc to reduce the incidence of <b>C</b> entral- <b>L</b> ine- <b>A</b> ssociated <b>B</b> lood <b>S</b> tream <b>I</b> nfection: A randomized controlled trial (the CLABSI trial)
Joan Webster	Marianne Wallis (University of the Sunshine Coast), Liz McInnes (Australian Catholic University), Shelley Roberts (Griffith University), Tracey Bucknall (Deakin University), Wendy Chaboyer (Griffith University), Brigid Gillespie (Griffith University)	<b>I</b> ntroducing <b>A</b> Care bundle <b>T</b> o prevent pressure injury (the INTACT trial): Follow-up study
Joan Webster	<b>Nicole Marsh (Nursing and Midwifery Research Centre; and Surgical Services), Emily Larsen (Nursing and Midwifery Research Centre; and Cancer Care Services), Nicole Gavin (Cancer Care Services), Claire Rickard (Griffith University), Nahid Choudhury (UQCCR)</b>	<b>R</b> eplacing <b>P</b> eriphera <b>L</b> intra <b>V</b> enous Cath <b>E</b> ters (REPLACE study)

### Other Current Collaborative Research Activity

Collaborative Lead Researchers	RBWH Researchers	Research Project Title
Brigid Gillespie (Griffith University)	Joan Webster	<b>A</b> dding negative p <b>R</b> ESSure to improve heal <b>I</b> NG (the DRESSING trial).
Wendy Chaboyer (Griffith University)	Joan Webster, Merrilyn Banks (Dietetics)	<b>I</b> ntroducing <b>A</b> Care bundle <b>T</b> o prevent pressure injury (the INTACT trial).
Claire Rickard (Griffith University)	Joan Webster	Intravascular device administration sets: <b>R</b> eplacement after <b>S</b> tandard <b>V</b> ersus <b>P</b> rolonged use (the RSVP trial).
Claire Rickard (Griffith University)	Joan Webster	<b>P</b> eripherally <b>I</b> n <b>S</b> erted <b>C</b> entral catheter <b>S</b> ecurement (the PISCES Trial).
Paterson D (UQCCR)	Joan Webster, Nicole Gavin	eme <b>R</b> gence of <b>A</b> ntibacterial resistan <b>C</b> e associated with the use of antimicrobial impregnated dr <b>E</b> ssings (the RACE Study).
Moureau N (PICC Excellence; USA)	Nicole Marsh	<b>E</b> valuation of <b>S</b> kin <b>C</b> olonisation and <b>P</b> lacement of <b>C</b> atheter <b>E</b> xit sites Study (the ESCAPE Study).
Samantha Keogh (Griffith University)	Nicole Marsh	A pilot study of a factorial, randomised trial of high vs low flushing frequencies and volumes.