2015 Annual Report

University of Queensland Centre for Clinical Research

The University Of Queensland
AUSTRALIA

Create change

This year, our pursuit of best practice and clinical research excellence focuses on our emerging early and mid-career researchers, who are the vanguards of our next generation clinical research breakthroughs.

Professor David L. Paterson
2015 Acting Director

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Professor David L. Paterson MBBS, PhD, FRACP, FRCPA

Significant growth and development has marked my term as Acting Director this year. It has proved to be a productive and highly rewarding year, thanks are due to my predecessor Professor Murray Mitchell for his previous stewardship of this high performing centre of medical and health innovation.

I am proud to present this report on our successes throughout 2015 at The UQ Centre for Clinical Research (UQCCR). The enduring support of generous donors, funders, supporters, collaborators and cooperative ventures, make this a reality.

As you read about the people and projects making a contribution to human wellness and health along the age continuum, you will notice a common theme emerging: research excellence supporting health and lifetime well-being. This year, our pursuit of best practice and clinical research excellence focuses on our emerging early and mid-career researchers, who are the vanguards of our next generation clinical research breakthroughs.

Our researchers have been spurred on by having their work validated through receiving more than $15.6 million from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). Their efforts continue to be acknowledged through support from new and current collaborators and cooperative partners. This year saw twenty five of our research higher degree students complete their study, within a cohort of one hundred and fifteen students.

Researchers within our four themes of Brain and Mental Health, Cancer, Infection and Immunity, and Mother, Babies and Lifelong Health published three hundred and thirty four papers in key journals of international regard. We welcomed fourteen international visiting scientists in 2015.

Congratulations are extended to UQCCR individual staff members whose efforts have been celebrated at the highest levels. Professor Sunil Lakhani was awarded a Distinguished Pathologist Award at the Asia Pacific International Academy of Pathology Congress; Professor Pam McCombe received an ANZAN medal from the Australian and New Zealand Association of Neurologists; Professor Murray Mitchell received a Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists ad eundem; Dr Peter Simpson was awarded a Fellow of the Faculty of Science by the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia and Dr Minyon Avent was credentialed as an Advanced Practice Pharmacist by the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC).

The much anticipated Herston Imaging Research Facility (HIRF) was officially opened by Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk. This venture is the culmination of astute collaboration between The University of Queensland, the Metro North Hospital and Health Service, QUT and the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, with Siemens as an industry partner and the generous support of The Queensland Government. HIRF combines state-of-the-art medical imaging equipment with world-class research and clinical expertise, right here in Herston. It is set to be one of the most exciting clinical imagery ventures in the Asia Pacific.

We celebrated outstanding research contributions at the UQCCR Annual Awards – Professor David Copland, Dr Nadeeka Dissanayaka, Dr Carlos Saloman-Gallo, Ms. Hanna Thomas and Dr Patrick Harris.

These awards present an opportunity to showcase and recognise research excellence of our world class researchers, early career researchers and research higher degree students.

Importantly, I would like to thank and recognise all UQCCR staff – academic, clinical, professional and research for their dedication, spirit of achievement and teamwork. Their pursuit of research excellence and deep commitment to health and lifetime well-being, supports our many milestones and accomplishments.

Professor David L. Paterson
2015 Acting Director

Research Themes

Mothers, Babies and Lifelong Health

A healthy start to life is vital for lifelong health and preventing susceptibility to chronic disease. This research area focuses on the links between pregnancy, the fetus and newborn, and lifelong health. The goal is to improve health outcomes for mothers and babies from complications of pregnancy, fetal growth restriction, and brain injury.

Research areas include:

- Pregnancy
- High risk pregnancy
- Early diagnosis of complications of pregnancy
- Metabolism in pregnancy
- Gestational diabetes
- Preterm labour
- Neonatal
- Cardiovascular function in neonates
- Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)
- Cerebral palsy
- Wound healing
- Ischemic brain injury in the neonate

Group Leaders:

- Professor Nicholas Fisk, Stem cell biology
- Associate Professor Kiarash Khosrotehrani, Stem cell biology
- Professor Leonie Callaway, Complications of pregnancy
- Dr Marloes Dekker, Microbiomes in pregnancy
- Professor Greg Rice, Exosome Biology Laboratory
- Dr Carlos Salomon Gallo, Exosome Biology Laboratory
- Professor Hayden Homer, Christopher Chen Chair in Reproductive Medicine, Oocyte Biology Laboratory
- Professor Paul Colditz, Perinatal Research Centre
- Dr Barbara Lingwood, Perinatal Research Centre
- Dr Tracey Bjorkman, Perinatal Research Centre

Cancer

This research is paving the way for the development of new or improved diagnostic technologies, as well as better methods of treatment.

Researchers are investigating:

- Breast cancer
- Prostate cancer
- Skin cancer
- Lung Cancer
- Gynaecological cancers, including ovarian cancer

Researchers are studying the biology and behaviour of these cancer types to:

- better understand how cancers develop, progress and ultimately spread to other sites in the body (a process known as metastasis);
- develop new or improved diagnostic technologies (biomarkers) for the early detection of disease, for predicting outcomes or for monitoring patients at risk of disease progression; and
- to identify better therapeutic opportunities for patients.

Our researchers access world-class onsite facilities such as the Centre for Clinical Diagnostics and Herston Imaging Research Facility, and collaborate widely within and beyond UQCCR, to improve the life quality, and life expectancy, of patients living with cancer.

Group Leaders:

- Professor Sunil Lakhani, Molecular Breast Pathology
- Dr Peter Simpson, Molecular Breast Pathology
- Professor Martin Lavin, Cancer and Neuroscience
- Professor Frank Gardiner, Prostate Cancer

Brain and Mental Health

This program is developing a better understanding of brain disorders, mental illness, movement disorders, demyelinating diseases and brain injury.

Researchers are currently investigating:

- Dementia
- Brain injury in adults and babies
- Addiction
- Genetics of ataxia telangiectasia
- Speech difficulties and altered immune function in patients with stroke
- Language, cognition and neuropsychiatric issues in Parkinson's disease
- Pathogenesis of and new treatment strategies for multiple sclerosis
- Autistic spectrum disorder
- Neuroethics
- Child and youth mental health, including intervention studies for early psychosis, prevention of bullying in schools, and the immunological basis of mental health problems

Group Leaders:

- Professor Pamela McCombe, Neuro immunology
- Associate Professor Judith Greer, Neuro immunology
- Associate Professor James Scott, Youth mental health
- Professor David Copland, Language and neuroscience laboratory
- Associate Professor Marcus Meinzer, Language and neuroscience laboratory
- Dr Nadeeka Dissanayaka, Neuro mental health

Infection and Immunity

This research program links basic research on bacterial genetics with new approaches to investigating risks and treatments for infections with antibiotic resistant organisms.

Research areas focus on:

- Prevention and treatment of infections with antibiotic resistant bacteria
- Developing rapid diagnostic tools to aid infection control precautions and early treatment
- Collaborations on the development of new antibiotics to treat current threats
- Optimisation of antibiotic treatment (antimicrobial stewardship)
- Development of metric tools for assessing patient outcomes
- Surveillance of clinical microbiological and economic costs of treatment for antibiotic resistance bacteria
- Molecular diagnostics and characterisation of organisms important to public health
- Molecular epidemiology of antibiotic resistant bacteria
- Molecular assay development for the surveillance of antibiotic resistance

Group Leaders:

- Professor David Paterson, Antibiotic resistance, clinical trials and stewardship
- Associate Professor David Whiley, Microbial diagnostics and characterisation
- Professor Anders Cervin, Chronic Airway Disease: microbiome and novel treatment options

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2015

IN REVIEW

Highlights *from 2015*

2015 UQCCR Awards

The annual UQCCR Awards presents an opportunity to recognise significant research contributions and to showcase the work of our Research Higher Degree students, Early Career researchers and world-class researchers. This was held on 17th December 2015. Professor David Paterson, UQCCR's current Acting Director presided over the awards and incoming Acting Director Professor Greg Rice congratulated our winners.

Professor David Copland received the UQCCR Researcher of the Year award, Dr Nadeeka Dissanayaka and Dr Carlos Saloman-Gallo were both awarded the UQCCR Early Career Researcher Awards; followed by Ms Hanna Thomas and Dr Patrick Harris who received UQCCR's Outstanding Scholar Awards respectively.

Throughout the 2015 year, UQCCR also presented its researchers with a publication of the month award. These eight outstanding students and early career researchers are Dr Jodi Saunus, Dr Amanda Kijas, Mr Alexander Wailan, Miss Elizabeth Torbey, Professor Frank Gardiner, Mr Hosam Zowawi, Miss Stephanie Miller and Dr Nadeeka Dissanayaka UQCCR is grateful to Shimadzu Australia and Siemens Healthcare, our generous donors, who made these awards possible.

ABOVE Professor David Paterson

ABOVE Ms Hanna Thomas

Student Success

Matthew Roberts PhD Scholar was the UQ representative for Global Young Scientists Summit (GYSS) in Singapore. Matthew was also the runner-up for UQ School of Medicine Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition and won Round 1 of the Centre for Advanced Imaging (CAI) Research Higher Degree Publication 2015 competition.

Pursuing her curiosity in dermatological research led Ms Betoul Baz, a PhD scholar to be the recipient of the Graduate School International Travel Award (GSITA) which she put towards attending the September 2015 45th Annual European Society for Dermatological Research (ESDR) Meeting in Rotterdam; and towards a laboratory visit to The Progenitors and Endothelial Cells During and After Pregnancy Laboratory headed by Professor Selim Aractingi, Saint-Antoine Research Centre in Paris.

Mr Alexander Wailan whose interest in microbiology led him to make a career in the fight against antibiotic-resistant bacteria, was chosen to complete an exchange placement with Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute in Cambridge, United Kingdom. He studied genome sequencing and bioinformatics analysis with Professor Nicholas Thomson and also collaborated with internationally recognised researchers there. Alex is currently completing his PhD in genetic analysis of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

ABOVE Mr Alexander Wailan (left)

Funding Success

Postdoctoral Fellow Dr David Whiley received a NHMRC Career Development Fellowship and Associate Professor James Scott received a NHMRC Practitioner Fellowship Award respectively. Led by Professor Greg Rice and Dr Carlos Salomon-Gallo, UQCCR also received an NHMRC Development grant worth nearly $600,000. Dr Hosam Zowawi starts his three year Postdoctoral Research Fellowship from Merchant Charitable Foundation.

Professor Judith Greer received over $800,000 to advance her research in Multiple Sclerosis and Professor David Copland was successful in receiving two Australian Research Council Discovery project grants for language neuroscience on top of a grant of over $700,000 from NHMRC (read more, page 48). A continuation of a $6.5 million NHMRC funded program that is set to change the future of breast cancer diagnosis, prevention and treatment was led by Professor Sunil Lakhani.

RIGHT Professor Judith Greer

ABOVE Queensland Premier Anatascia Paluscuk at the HIRF opening

ABOVE UQ Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Peter Høj at the HIRF opening

Visits to UQCCR

In December, Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk and University of Queensland Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Peter Høj opened the $24 million Herston Imaging Research Facility (HIRF). The state-of-the-art imaging centre, located in Herston is Australia's largest hospital precinct and the only one in the nation focused on clinical research. HIRF is a collaboration between The University of Queensland, the Metro North Hospital and Health Service, QUT and the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, with Siemens as an industry supporter. The Premier was joined by Minister for Health Cameron Dick, Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy Leeanne Enoch, and Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations Grace Grace.

Collaboration between UQCCR and the University of California in the area of alcohol-exposed pregnancy research was further enhanced by the visit of Dr Annika Montag from University of California, San Diego) in July.

Associate Professor Ken Herrmann from University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) visited in September and presented a seminar on 'An update to recent advances in novel theranostics in the area of nuclear medicine'.

Bench to bedside translation of Fluciclovine for positron emission tomography (PET) imaging in metastatic brain tumours and prostate cancer was discussed by Prof Mark M Goodman, the Director of Radiology and Imaging Sciences Radiopharmaceutical Discovery Laboratory from Atlanta USA.

Career Highlights

Professor Pam McCombe, a neurologist heading the Brain and Mental Health research theme, received an Australian and New Zealand Association of Neurologists (ANZAN) medal for her significant contribution to the field of neurology.

At the Asia Pacific International Academy of Pathology Congress, Professor Sunil Lakhani was awarded the prestigious Distinguished Pathologist Award for 2015 (read more, page 18).

Professor David Paterson was named on the Thomson Reuters Highly Cited Researchers 2015 list. This annual prestigious list captures researchers who rank in the top one per cent by citations for their field in the Web of Science.

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) made Professor Murray Mitchell a Fellow ad eundem of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists for his lifetime research contribution.

Dr Peter Simpson was awarded a Fellow of the Faculty of Science (FFSc RCPA) by the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia and Dr Minyon Avent was credentialed as an Advanced Practice Pharmacists (Adv. Prac. Pharm.) by the Australian Pharmacy Council.

TOP LEFT Professor Sunil Lakhani

TOP RIGHT Professor Pam McCombe

BOTTOM (Left to right) Professor Roberto Romero, Professor Murray Mitchell, RCOG President Dr David Richmond and Professor Ian Frazer

Media Highlights

Associate Professor James Scott starts the year with a popular article on how to manage stress levels, in The Conversation. In March, during the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence Associate, Associate Professor James Scott and Dr Hannah Thomas discuss the prevalence of bullying in schools.

Dr Jodi Saunus was interviewed by The Sunday Telegraph, Sydney for the possibility of new cancer treatment options for incurable metastatic brain tumours in August.

Premature babies and the challenges posed when they arrive early was discussed via audio by Professor Paul Colditz from The Perinatal Research Centre at UQCCR in October.

Professor David Paterson was interviewed by a number of international media like the BBC World Service and New England Journal of Medicine for his publication in The Lancet Infectious Diseases on the last line of antibiotic defence. Also from UQCCR's Infection and Immunity Research theme, Dr Patrick Harris featured in Channel 10 'The Project', the Melbourne Age, Bloomberg View and vice.com on the topic of 'Superbugs'.

LEFT Professor Paul Colditz

Hot Publications

UQCCR's world class researchers had multiple entries in prestigious publications during 2015, in journals such as The Lancet, Nature and Journal of Clinical Oncology.

Associate Professor James Scott published 'Global, regional, and national disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) for 306 diseases and injuries and healthy life expectancy (HALE) for 188 countries, 1990-2013: quantifying the epidemiological transition'; 'Global, regional, and national comparative risk assessment of 79 behavioural, environmental and occupational, and metabolic risks or clusters of risks in 188 countries, 1990-2013: A systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2013' and 'Addressing the burden of mental, neurological, and substance use disorders: key messages from Disease Control Priorities, 3rd edition' in The Lancet respectively.

Clinician and internationally recognised researcher Professor RA ('Frank') Gardiner published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology, 'Patients Who Receive Androgen Deprivation Therapy Risk Adverse Cognitive Changes'.

In Lancet Psychiatry, Dr Cynthia Forlini, the Australian Research Council's Discovery Early Career Researcher, published 'Brain disease model of addiction: misplaced priorities?'

Having dedicated their careers to protecting the world from the threat of antibiotic resistance, Professor David Paterson and Dr Patrick Harris published 'β-lactam and β-lactamase inhibitor combinations in the treatment of extended-spectrum β-lactamase producing Enterobacteriaceae: Time for a reappraisal in the era of few antibiotic options?' and 'Colistin resistance: a major breach in our last line of defence' in The Lancet Infectious Diseases. Separately, Professor David Paterson also published 'Framework for optimisation of the clinical use of colistin and polymyxin B: the Prato polymyxin consensus' in Lancet Infectious Diseases.

Professor Martin Lavin, an internationally recognised authority and researcher in the human genetic disorder ataxia-telangiectasia (A-T) with particular emphasis on cancer predisposition and neurodegeneration, published 'Senataxin suppresses the antiviral transcriptional response and controls viral biogenesis' in Nature Immunology.

Distinguished Pathologist Professor Sunil Lakhani and Dr Jodi Saunus published '+R[-259]C:RC by exosomal microRNA primes brain metastasis outgrowth' in Nature.

BELOW Associate Professor James Scott

Centre for Clinical Diagnostics

UQCCR's Centre for Clinical Diagnostics (CCD) forms part of the Queensland Node of the Therapeutic Innovation Australia – established in 2012 to allow life sciences researchers to translate their discoveries into commercial products faster.

Additional NCRIS funds enabled the appointment of a highly-experienced Mass Spectroscopist, Dr Sarah Reed to lead the facility. In 2015, the CCD continues to progress early stage research for the development of In Vitro Devices within our NATA accredited (ISO 17025 (R&D)) Centre.

ABOVE Centre for Clinical Diagnostics Laboratory

Breast Tissue Bank

Based at UQCCR, the Brisbane Breast Bank facilitates research into breast cancer. The bio banking of fresh frozen tissue for the last ten years has yielded a valuable resource for breast cancer research, both in Australia and abroad.

Its collaborative research model enables efficient and meaningful use of a finite specimen resource and complies with national human research ethics guidelines. Affiliations to other bio banking organisations nationally and internationally stimulate further translationally-focused research in breast cancer long term.

This year UQCCR's Dr Jodi Saunus and Professor Sunil Lakhani led a global effort to discover new genetic information linked to the development of metastatic brain cancer. This unique world's first research using whole-exome sequencing of secondary brain tumours deepens researcher's understanding of secondary brain tumours and highlights opportunities for new drug targets.

Community *engagement*

National Science Week

To celebrate National Science Week, Dr Marloes Dekker and Dr Amy McCart Reed, were invited to present their research at Somerville House School. Marloes and Amy were greeted by the year 11 Science Ambassadors and delivered their seminars; 'Clinical science: from the bedside to the bench and back again' and 'Breast Cancer Research'. It was a rewarding and enjoyable experience, and both Marloes and Amy hope to have inspired a future generation of women in science.

Dr Jacki Liddle who has advanced social media engagement skills, curated the 'We Brisbane' Twitter account during National Science Week.

Asia-Pacific Centre for Neuromodulation (APCN) held a Brisbane public symposium 'Secrets of your brain revealed: a research update' which was a series of seminars by key researchers designed for the layperson. This event received excellent public interest and all tickets were taken.

ABOVE Dr Marloes Dekker (left) and Dr Amy McCart Reed (right) at Somerville House School

Breast Cancer

Dr Jodi Saunus presented a community talk 'Breast Cancer Research and the Brisbane Breast Bank' at the Zonta Club of Redcliffe. She spoke again at the Perioperative Nurses Association Qld (PNAQ) meeting 2015 on the topic.

Supporting breast cancer public education, the Lakhani Group welcomed the community to its Breast Cancer Community Engagement day at UQCCR in October and hosted the National Breast Cancer Foundation Morning Tea.

At the Kenneth G. Jamieson Department of Neurosurgery, Royal Brisbane Women's Hospital (RBWH), Professor Sunil Lakhani and Dr Jodi Saunus gave a presentation on 'Metastatic brain tumours, tissue collection for research'.

ABOVE Dr Jodi Saunus

Engaging Students in Science

Maclean High School students were given a practical demonstration of deep brain stimulation in action with a motion sensor by Dr Peter Poortvliet and Dr Hari Subramanian in March.

UQCCR researchers Dr Hassendrini Peiris, Dr Jatin Patel, Dr Cynthia Forlini, Dr Rehan Villani, Dr Jacki Liddle and Dr Hari Subramanian engaged with high performing high school students in the University of Queensland's Young Scholars Program – a residential camp where students were introduced to the diverse tertiary study options within the University of Queensland.

In July, UQCCR hosted seven students from the National University of Singapore who learnt about deep brain stimulation with Dr Hari Subramanian and explored exosomes in the context of pregnancy and ovarian cancer with Dr Carlos Salomon-Gallo.

The Brisbane Boys College Student Scientist Partnership Program continued in 2015. Professor Murray Mitchell and Dr Tracey Bjorkman hosted four students, giving them a total immersion opportunity within UQCCR's cutting-edge research facilities.

LEFT Dr Hari Subramanian

Asia-Pacific Centre for Neuromodulation (APCN)

With all researchers participating, APCN delivered yet another popular fully attended public event in the Gold Coast titled 'Towards improving brain health: now and the future' symposium.

They presented 'Long term management & model of care for patients of Deep Brain Stimulation' a lecture for health professionals in Maclean, Coastal Northern New South Wales and 'The future of improving brain health" a seminar for the general public Yamba.

Parkinson's disease

In a Parkinson's Disease project focusing on language, memory, learning and emotion processing, Dr Christina Atay visited, spoke and danced ballet at Dance for Parkinson's, with an aim to educate and connect with the community of people living with Parkinson's Disease.

Dr Nadeeka Dissayanaka presented at a Gold Coast community talk aimed at patients, their families, carers and professionals involved with treating Parkinson's disease titled 'Anxiety and depression in Parkinson's disease'.

Putting their fundraising hat on, the APCN team of researchers participated in 'A Walk in the Park for Parkinson's disease' and organised a lunch to fundraise for Young@Park Parkinson's Disease support group.

Perinatal Research

The Harcourts Foundation 2015 Butterfly Ball fundraiser was again a night to remember with proceeds to support perinatal research into conditions such as stillbirth, prematurity and birth-related injury. The internationally recognised Perinatal Research Centre at UQCCR is a collaborative effort between the Royal Brisbane Women's Hospital (RBWH) and UQCCR. The Colditz Group team of researchers both supported and played an active part in assisting the RBWH and Harcourts organise this ball.

The Perinatal Research Centre also receives research funds raised by the Lions Medical Research Foundation (LMRF). Dr Tracey Bjorkman is one of the current Lions Research Fellows.

This year Prof Colditz and Dr Bjorkman addressed the annual LMRF Personality Quest candidates who commit to raise funds to make a difference to health outcomes. Candidates gain concrete insights to real life events impacting perinatal clinical care during their visit to the neonatal intensive care unit and the maternity ward at RBWH.

Dr Tracey Bjorkman was an invited speaker to the Lions International Annual Convention District 201Q3, Brisbane Chinese Lions Fundraiser and the Bundaberg Lions International Women's Day. Furthermore, she was featured in the Brisbane Chinese Lions Club and LMRF promotional video, discussing her research on hypoxic brain injury in newborns.

ABOVE Dr Tracey Bjorkman at the Lions International Annual Convention at Ubobo, Queensland

ABOVE Dr Tracey Bjorkman

ABOVE *Wings of Life* painting donated by artist Dave Behrens; Miss Annice Kong (front) at the Harcourts Foundation 2015 Butterfly Ball

Superbugs

Professor David Paterson discussed ‘Ethical dilemmas in antimicrobial prescribing: The Dallas Buyers Club comes to Brisbane’ at the 24th Annual Healthcare Symposium. At the joint Metro North Hospital and Health Service and the Centre for Advancement of Clinical Research’s Health Professionals course, Professor Paterson spoke on the topic of ‘Grant Applications to Competitively Awarded Funding Schemes’. He addressed the Superbugs Solutions Scientific Symposium, Queensland Forum on Antimicrobial Resistance with ‘The escalating arms race between superbugs and antibiotics: Implications for Patients and Public Health’ in November.

PhD scholar Hosam Zowawi has been actively promoting the message of antibiotic resistance through public seminars, by visiting shopping centres in Saudi Arabia, by involving and inspiring primary school children from Salisbury State School in Brisbane. Through his twitter @HZowawi social media platform he has employed creative artwork to explain the issue of antibiotic resistance, disseminate key antibiotic awareness messages and promote community antibiotic awareness seminars and events.

The Paterson Group was behind the Superbug Slayers Polo initiative, co-organized with the Carder Polo Cup 2015 in Queensland. The Superbug Slayers played polo, raised funds and mingled with the polo community to raise awareness on antibiotic resistance. Professor Paterson, Hosam Zowawi and Dr Patrick Harris were on hand to engage in discussions and to raise awareness on the issue of superbugs and their impact on our communities. This successful initiative was then repeated in the Czech Republic, with the Superbug Slayers partnering with the Czech Snow Polo Masters championship in February.

ABOVE Professor David Paterson at the 24th Annual Healthcare Symposium

Mental Health

Associate Professor James Scott presented a community lecture; ‘Psychosis – What is it and how is it treated?’ at the Unravelling Psychosis Consumer and Carer Conference in Brisbane. He was invited to speak on the topic of ‘Preventing Mental Disorders in Children and Adolescents’ by the Queensland Mental Health and Drug Advisory Council. In October, he was invited to speak at a workshop on ‘Optimising recovery in persons with serious mental illness’ by PsyAcademy II in Sydney.

The topic of bullying was addressed by Dr Hannah Thomas with a public seminar titled ‘The problem with bullying: What are the risks and what is needed next?’ in August 2015.

ABOVE PhD scholar Mr Hosam Zowawi

Community and public involvement

Professor Greg Rice and Dr Carlos Salomon-Gallo were invited and attended NAIDOC (National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee) week celebrations in July. This was celebrated in Herston and presented an opportunity to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) primary health care networks in Brisbane, with a view to recruiting ATSI women for pre-conception health and well-being research.

The Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland invited Dr Jacki Liddle as a panellist to a workshop on Inclusive Design in Brisbane. Dr Liddle brought a background as an occupational therapist combined with her research involving the needs of older people and their quality of life, participation and life transition perspectives.

ABOVE NAIDOC (National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee) week celebrations

2015 AWARD
Decoding the mysteries *of breast cancer*

For the last forty years, the Australasian Division of the International Academy of Pathology has organised annual scientific meetings for trainee and consultant pathologists, researchers and scientists. The 2015 Annual Meeting, held in Brisbane, assembled pathology leaders from around the world to share their knowledge and expertise, and to highlight the latest advances in this challenging field.

The jewel in the crown of the meeting was the award of the highest honour in surgical pathology in Australasia, the 'Distinguished Pathologist' medal. Professor Sunil Lakhani received this medal for his outstanding contribution to diagnostic and academic pathology.

Professor Lakhani trained in Medicine, Pathology and Molecular Pathology in London, UK and was Professor of Pathology at The Institute of Cancer Research and The Royal Marsden Hospital, London, UK prior to his move to Brisbane in October 2004. He is currently the Head of the Discipline of Molecular and Cellular Pathology in the School of Medicine, University of Queensland, Head of the Breast Group at The UQ Centre for Clinical Research and Queensland State Director for Anatomical Pathology, Pathology Queensland.

From the beginning of his career, the focus of Professor Lakhani's research has been to translate basic mechanisms of disease into useable and effective methods to diagnose, classify and treat disease.

He said: "I see myself first and foremost as a doctor – my other skills as a pathologist and scientist augment my primary objective, which is to integrate scientific understanding to make a difference to patients.

The designation of pathologist or oncologist or scientist is artificial and while providing specific knowledge and skills, should not become a prison that prevents a broad, cross-disciplinary approach to improving patient care."

"Early in my professional life, whilst working with Professors John Sloane and Sir Michael Stratton at The Royal Marsden Hospital and The Institute of Cancer Research, I was given the opportunity to make a contribution to understanding the early development and progression of breast cancer – a complex, multifaceted disease, with the goal of translating this research into better risk management and treatment" said Professor Lakhani.

"My links with Professor Sir Michael Stratton continue as part of the International Cancer Genome Consortium (ICGC) and my research group at UQCCR has made an important contribution to the largest dataset of whole genome sequencing of breast cancers led by the Sanger Institute, UK. We collaborate extensively, and rely upon the knowledge and experience of many other researchers including those involved in genetics of cancer development, DNA repair and the mechanisms that cause some tumours to spread (metastasis), particularly to the brain."

The current interests of the Lakhani Research Group include lobular breast cancer and its variants, tumours with a basal-like phenotype/triple negative breast cancers, mechanisms underpinning brain and other distant metastases and familial breast cancer.

This research has been underpinned by continuous NHMRC Program grant funding (2007-2021) to a multidisciplinary collaborative research team including Professors Georgia Chenevix-Trench and KumKum Khanna from the QIMR-Berghofer, Brisbane.

Prof Lakhani's published works exceed 250 original studies that have been collectively cited more than 19,000 times.

He has published seminal studies on both pre-invasive lesions and the pathology of familial breast cancer, which have been translated to routine clinical practise for patients. Prof Lakhani has a distinguished reputation among his peers internationally; he has presented 27 keynote and named lectures at national and international congresses and is a regular invitee and speaker at national and international symposia. He is series editor of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Tumour Classification 'blue books' and editor of the WHO Classification Tumours of the Breast 4th-Ed (2012).

Professor Lakhani's service contributions span local, national and international arenas. He continues to make a significant contribution to medical and undergraduate teaching, and has built a unique teaching facility – The Integrated Pathology Learning centre (IPLC) that forms part of the core teaching space on The Royal Brisbane Hospital Campus with a satellite centre on the Princess Alexandra Hospital Campus.

He plays a significant role in postdoctoral, PhD student and registrar research training. Internationally, he is currently one of the lead pathologists on the international OlympiA clinical trial and an active member of the ANZ Breast Cancer Trials group (ANZBCTG) and the ICGC.

Sunil

Professor Sunil Lakhani
B.Sc (Hons), MBBS, MD, FRC.Path, FRCPA

To support Professor Sunil Lakhani's research into breast cancer, please donate at www.uqccr.edu.au

He is also Chair of Cancer Australia's 'Clinical guidance for the management of lobular carcinoma in situ', NPAAC committee member – 'Guidelines for Digital Pathology' and has recently been invited as one of four 'capability experts' to advise the 2016 National Research Infrastructure Roadmap headed by the Chief Scientist Dr Alan Finkel AO.

With significant contributions at national and international level in clinical diagnostic pathology, teaching, research and professional service, it is not difficult to see why he is a worthy recipient of the "Distinguished Pathologist' medal.

TEAM MEMBERS
Dr Peter Simpson, Dr Jodi Saunus, Dr Amy McCart Reed, Mr Kaltin Ferguson, Ms Colleen Niland, Dr Priyakshi Kalita-de Croft, Dr Andrew Dalley, Dr Julie Johnson, Mrs Lynne Reid, Mr Samir Lal, Mr Malcolm Lim, Ms Renique Males, Mr Alex Simmons, Ms Korinne Northwood, Associate Professor Margaret Cummings, Dr Kowsi Murugappan, Ms Shari Bowker

UQCCR RESEARCHER
Professor Sunil Lakhani
s.lakhani@uq.edu.au

David

Professor David Copland BSpPath(Hons), PhD

To support Professor Copland's research into Aphasia, please donate at www.uqccr.edu.au

2015 AWARD

Identifying accurate predictors for *aphasia recovery and treatment response*

Every ten minutes in Australia, someone has a stroke. Around a third of stroke patients will experience aphasia – a loss of the ability to communicate. While some people with aphasia recover, many continue to experience problems in communication that can leave a devastating effect on their personal lives and impact the carers, family and friends around them.

Unfortunately, there is currently no accurate way to predict who will recover from aphasia, how quickly they will improve or what language therapy they should undertake in order to optimise their recovery. Professor David Copland hopes to identify predictors for aphasia recovery and help guide treatment response.

"Our current use of behavioural language measures does not provide us with the critical information patients and their families want regarding their future ability to communicate," he said.

Professor Copland and collaborators have received more than AU$1 million in funding across three research projects into aphasia, the impact of exercise on brain activity and how white noise may improve language processing.

Research into aphasia will be led by Professor Copland using state-of-the-art brain imaging combined with clinically useful language tests and examining who responds to aphasia therapy. He will be collaborating with colleagues Associate Professor Katie McMahon (UQ Centre for Advanced Imaging), Professor Greig de Zubicaray (QUT) and Associate Professor Marcus Meinzer (UQCCR) on this $710,000 NHMRC research grant to search for answers for 40 percent of stroke survivors who suffer from aphasia.

Professor Copland was recently awarded two Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery research grants focused on factors that may enhance language learning.

"These grants will allow us to explore ways to optimise language learning that might then be applied to individuals with aphasia or to other populations with communication disorders," he said.

One of the ARC research grants will examine the relationship between exercise and language learning in healthy older adults with colleagues from UQ (Associate Professor Katie McMahon and Professor Jeff Coombes), Emory University, Georgia, Atlanta (Dr Amy Rodriguez) and Pittsburgh, University Pennsylvania (Assistant Professor Kirk Ericksen).

The second ARC research grant, working in collaboration with Dr Anthony Angwin, Associate Professor Wayne Wilson (UQ) and Professor Robert Barry (University of Woollongong) will explore how noise and dopamine influence language processing and learning in healthy adults.

This research has the potential to change the prevailing view that noise is always detrimental to language processing. It may support the development of methods to improve educational participation and outcomes for children and adults, particularly those with attention difficulties.

Focusing their research on gaining a better understanding of the neural basis of the human language and identifying ways to improve language function after neurological injury or disease, Professor Copland and his colleagues hope to find answers to longstanding and important questions about the brain and its impact on language.

TEAM MEMBERS

Dr Jade Dignam, Mrs Tracy Roxbury, Ms Georgia Thomas, Ms Kylie Wall, Miss Megan Isaacs, Miss Rebecca Banney, Ms Melina West, Ms Alicia Rawlings, Ms Kate O'Brien

UQCCR RESEARCHER

Professor David Copland
d.copland@uq.edu.au

02

EARLY *CAREER*

RESEARCHERS

EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS

Early detection of *pregnancy complications*

For the majority of Australian expectant mothers, their pregnancies will be smooth running with happy outcomes, but for the 10 per cent who experience complicated pregnancies this is not the case.

World-wide 15 million babies are born preterm (before 37 weeks gestation) and of these 1.1 million die each year; in Australia this amounts to approximately 25,000 births. In addition to preterm birth, other complications can include elevated blood pressure (preeclampsia), blood glucose (diabetes; gestational diabetes) and growth restriction of the baby in the womb. These place both the mother and baby at a higher risk of poor health at the time of delivery (including death) and then later in their lives, when diseases such as diabetes and heart disease may develop. Presently, most of these complications are picked up too late in pregnancy to make any significant difference to the health of the developing baby. Early detection of pregnancy complications before health consequences are irreversible, could support new methods to treat complicated pregnancies that would be significantly beneficial to both the mother and baby. Having a healthy pregnancy and delivery is essential to good health throughout life.

Hassendrini "Nel" started her PhD investigating levels and functions of the protein myostatin in the placenta. While known to negatively affect muscle development (more myostatin less muscle), the exact role of myostatin in the placenta and in pregnancy was previously unknown. Nel's research has identified that myostatin is altered in the placenta of complicated pregnancies including preterm birth. Within the placenta the protein acts inversely to muscle growth. Her work has recently been acknowledged with the award of a prestigious postdoctoral fellowship by The Lalor foundation (Boston, Massachusetts, USA). To date, only 209 foreign scientists have been awarded a fellowship to conduct their outside of the USA.

Nel's research identified a flaw in methods previously used to identify myostatin and she subsequently developed a mass spectrometry (MS) method to accurately identify the presence of myostatin in all its forms. Through advanced MS methods Nel has identified other substances present in pregnancy that may have bearing on whether complications will be encountered.

The MS methods developed have the potential to be useful as early diagnostic tools for pregnancy complications. The early warning may provide more time for intervention, which could make a significant difference to the lives of both mother and baby.

Nel intends to pursue the next stage of her research career by developing new methods initiated from her PhD and postdoctoral research, to facilitate translation of her methodologies into clinical and public health practices. Her interest and know-how combined with the state-of-the-art translational research NATA (National Association of Testing Authorities) accredited laboratory at UQCCR enables the best possible translation outcome. Located within one of Australia's largest hospital precincts, Nel has access to leading experts in the field of maternal and reproductive health at the University of Queensland and the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.

Nel

Dr Hassendrini (Nel) Peiris
BSc, PGDipSc, MSc (Hons), PhD

To support Dr Hassendrini Peiris and the Mitchell Group's research into the establishment, maintenance of pregnancy and the process of labour and delivery, please donate at **www.uqccr.edu.au**

Professor Murray Mitchell leads research into the establishment, maintenance of pregnancy and the process of labour and delivery within UQCCR.

The Mitchell Group focuses on the establishment and maintenance of pregnancy and mechanism(s) of parturition with emphasis on the roles of inflammatory mediators. The Mitchell Group also evaluates factors that control placental transport of nutrients, hormones, drugs and environmental agents. In particular, the causes and consequences of preterm birth and intrauterine growth restriction are being studied in order to evaluate the potential effects on early development and later vulnerability to disease in adulthood and in subsequent generations of offspring.

TEAM MEMBERS

Dr Hassendrini Peiris, Miss Kanchan Vaswani, Mr Yong Qin Koh and Ms Fatema Almughlliq, Mr Leon Oh

UQCCR RESEARCHER

Dr Hassendrini (Nel) Peiris
h.peiris@uq.edu.au

Julie

Dr Julie Wixey Bsc (Hons), PhD

To support Dr Julie Wixey and the Colditz Group's Perinatal Research Centre, please donate at perinatal-research.centre.uq.edu.au

EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS

Understanding the mechanisms of newborn brain development and injury *is vital to improving treatment options*

Professor Paul Colditz leads the Perinatal Research Centre within UQCCR. He is the Foundation Professor of Perinatal Medicine at the University of Queensland, Deputy Director of UQCCR, and a practicing clinician in neonatology.

The Perinatal Research Centre (PRC) is committed to improving health for mothers and babies through world class biomedical and clinical research.

Our multidisciplinary research team, consisting of clinicians, scientists, allied health professionals and engineers aim to discover and translate research advances into clinical practice and better health outcomes for mothers and babies. Research within the PRC covers several related areas including seizure prevention and neuroprotection led by Dr Tracey Bjorkman, systems physiology led by Dr Barbara Lingwood and Dr Yvonne Eiby, signal processing led by Prof Boualem Boashash and clinical trials involving the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.

TEAM MEMBERS

Professor Paul Colditz, Dr Tracey Bjorkman, Dr Barbara Lingwood, Dr Julie Wixey, Dr Yvonne Eiby, Dr Kirat Chand, Dr Shiying Dong, Ms Stephanie Miller

UQCCR RESEARCHER

Dr Julie Wixey

j.wixey@uq.edu.au

The birth process can be stressful for a newborn baby, especially if you are born too early or the birth doesn't go smoothly. During gestation a baby's brain is particularly vulnerable to a lack of oxygen. If blood flow (and oxygen) is disrupted, then brain injury can result and contribute to long-term disability and death.

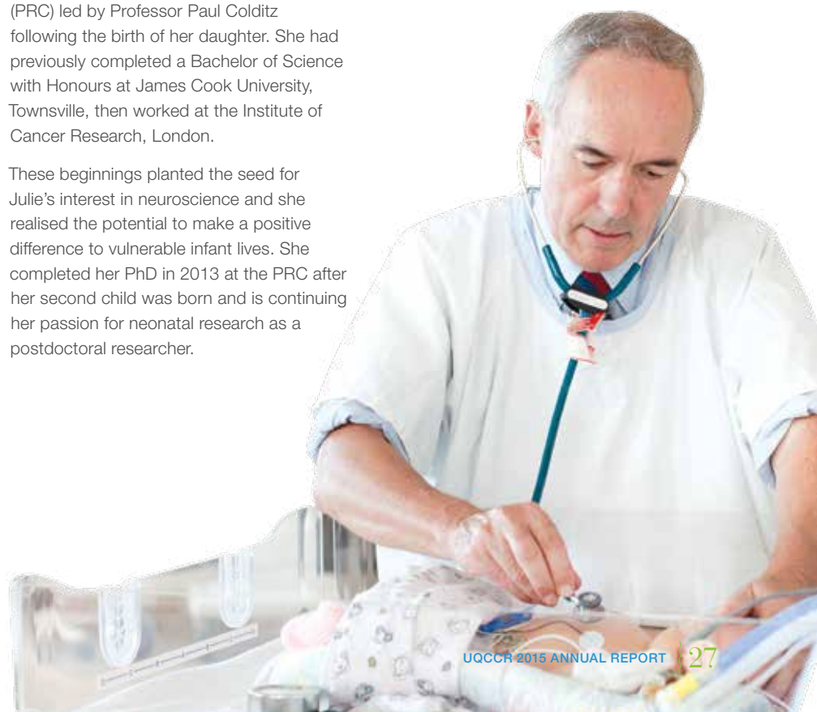
Mounting evidence suggests that inflammation is a major contributor to brain injury in the neonate. Inflammation initiates a number of processes including increased numbers of specialised brain cells called activated microglia that can have both beneficial and detrimental effects.

Julie's research focuses on inflammation in the neonatal brain, particularly the actions of proinflammatory cytokines. Developing therapies that reduce inflammation offer neuroprotection to a baby's brain and prevent outcomes such as Cerebral Palsy (CP), which is the most common serious neurodevelopmental childhood disorder.

Julie's interest in neonatal brain inflammation was piqued by her stint as a research assistant at the Perinatal Research Centre (PRC) led by Professor Paul Colditz following the birth of her daughter. She had previously completed a Bachelor of Science with Honours at James Cook University, Townsville, then worked at the Institute of Cancer Research, London.

These beginnings planted the seed for Julie's interest in neuroscience and she realised the potential to make a positive difference to vulnerable infant lives. She completed her PhD in 2013 at the PRC after her second child was born and is continuing her passion for neonatal research as a postdoctoral researcher.

Julie intends to pursue the next stage of her research career by contributing to the PRC's bench to bedside focus through translation of her PhD research. Her expertise of perinatal neuro-inflammation will be used to study babies whose growth is restricted during gestation (intrauterine growth restriction) impacting brain function. Having had the experience of healthy children of her own motivates her to help babies at risk of poor outcomes. The PRC at UQCCR provides excellent facilities and support for her continuing research career and aspirations. Professor Paul Colditz, the Director of the PRC and mentor to Julie, is an internationally recognised leader in translational perinatal research. Julie believes having a mentor of this calibre fosters her research strengths and allows her to become aware of and take advantage of international collaborative opportunities in her chosen field of research. The PRC maintains state of the art research equipment and a strong working relationship with Queensland Health, so facilitating involvement in clinical trials at RBWH and other hospitals around Australia.



RIGHT Professor Paul Colditz

EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS

Fighting Superbugs with *cutting-edge gene technology*

Antibiotic-resistant bacteria is a serious global concern, creating new challenges in the management of infectious diseases. Development of new antibiotics are infrequent. Gonorrhoea is a good example of a previously eradicated infectious disease now re-emerging as a formidable disease. Gonorrhoea infection rates continue to increase and there are now an estimated 100 million cases worldwide each year. Coincidentally, antibiotic resistance has now reached a critical point, with the possibility that untreatable or difficult-to-treat gonorrhoea will soon become a reality. Multi-drug resistant bacteria strains are now common globally and there have been recent sporadic reports of extensively drug-resistant gonococci in Japan, Europe and more recently, Australia. This has led the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to prioritise resistant-gonorrhoea as an “urgent threat” (the highest threat level).

Ella started her PhD investigating how to improve gonorrhoea resistance surveillance in Australia and to inform new antibiotic stewardship approaches.

Under the supervision of group leader Associate Professor David Whiley, the research group has embarked on the Gonorrhoea Resistance Assessment by Nucleic Acid Detection (GRAND) project, a nationwide study aimed at systematic development and implementation of new techniques to detect resistance to gonorrhoea. This extensive study had two key phases running in parallel; (1) arriving at key genetic determinants of gonorrhoea resistance in the Australian population, and (2) development of simple and rapid tests for improved detection of gonococcal resistance.

Ella intends to pursue the next stage of her research career by being able to develop new methods initiated from her PhD and facilitate their translation into clinical and public health practice. Her interest in using cutting-edge genomics and spatial epidemiology tools combined with the state-of-the-art translational research NATA accredited laboratory at UQCCR enables the best possible translation opportunity. Being based in one of Australia’s largest hospital precincts, Ella has access to leading experts in the field of antimicrobial resistance at Pathology Queensland and the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital.

Ella’s PhD research has led to new advances in the field of gonorrhoea diagnostics, antibiotic-resistance and understanding patterns and effects for specific communities. Her achievements include: (i) the development and validation of a novel, high throughput and cost effective molecular method to profile gonorrhoea resistance (ii) having conducted the largest national quality assurance program of gonorrhoea testing which has informed current testing practices, in parallel with the largest national study of gonorrhoea resistance (iii) a novel rapid diagnostic molecular test to detect gonorrhoea resistance directly from clinical samples; these tests are now part of clinical practice in both Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Collaborative work with the National Neisseria Network and other leading Australian researchers, has contributed to Australia being the first country in the world to implement molecular surveillance approaches to establish gonococcal resistance and represents an important milestone in fighting the gonorrhoea ‘superbug’. The World Health Organization has broad interest in use of this technology. Although Ella and the Whiley Group’s research focuses on gonorrhoea and sexual health, the methods and techniques can be widely translatable to combat a range of public health superbugs.

Associate Professor David Whiley leads research into microbial diagnostics and characterisation within the Infection and Immunity theme at UQCCR.

The Whiley Group research involves the development and use of novel molecular technologies for tracking infectious diseases, with a particular research focus on antibiotic resistant organisms.

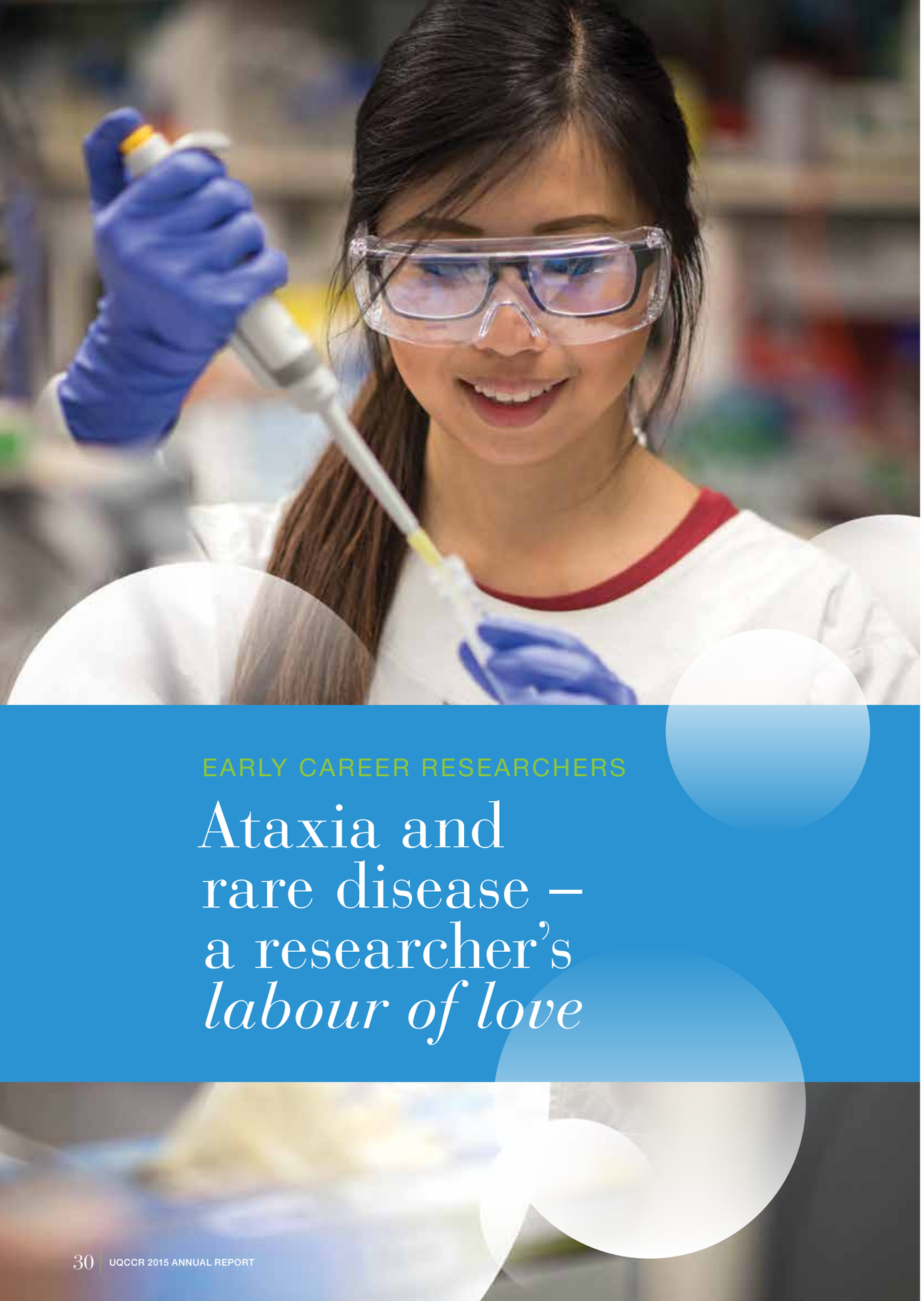
TEAM MEMBERS

Associate Professor David Whiley, Ms Hazel Hackett, Ms Sophia Ye, Mr Cameron Buckley, Dr Ella Trembizki

Ella

Dr Ella Trembizki
BSc, MClSc, PhD

To support Dr Ella Trembizki and the Whiley Group’s research on Superbugs, please donate at www.uqccr.edu.au



EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS

Ataxia and rare disease – a researcher's *labour of love*

Abrey

Dr Abrey Yeo BSc (Hons), PhD

To support Dr Abrey Yeo and the Lavin Group's research into Ataxia telangiectasia (A-T) and rare diseases, please donate at www.uqccr.edu.au

Ataxia telangiectasia (A-T; also known as Louis-Bar syndrome) is a rare genetic disorder of childhood occurring in one out of 100,000 to 300,000 live births. This debilitating and fatal disease is a complex disorder affecting many organ systems in the human body. It is characterised by progressive neurologic impairments, brain degeneration, immunodeficiency, susceptibility to respiratory infections, hypersensitivity to ionizing radiation, sterility and a predisposition to a variety of cancers, particularly those of the blood. A-T patients are commonly wheelchair-bound by the age of ten and with the disease becoming fatal by the time patients reach their early twenties.

Abrey was first drawn to molecular and cell research due to its diversity and dynamism. She received several scholarships from the Australian Federal Government, UQ, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute and the BrAshA-T Foundation to undertake her PhD research in several rare neurological disorders, amongst them ataxia oculomotor apraxia type 2 (AOA2).

Abrey has made significant contributions to research on AOA2 which includes the generation and characterization of the first AOA2 laboratory model. Under the supervision of group leader Professor Martin Lavin, she has produced consistent research output demonstrated by her discovery of the role of senataxin (the protein defective in AOA2) in DNA damage repair, RNA processing and gene expression regulation through chromatin remodelling. They were invited to submit these findings for publication to *Cell Discovery* from the Nature Publishing Group. The group has also discovered a novel role for senataxin in germ cell development and fertility and have been featured in the journal, *Biology of Reproduction*. Abrey's research output has enabled her to present her research findings at several international conferences and win the 2015 Outstanding Presentation prize at the Genomic Integrity Conference.

Abrey intends to pursue the next stage of her research career by facilitating the translation of her PhD into clinical research and contributing to patient treatment. Recently, Abrey obtained postdoctoral fellowships from the A-T Children's Project, USA and the BrAshA-T Foundation to undertake A-T research in Australia. Her current research focus is on identifying the different types of bacteria present in the respiratory tracts of A-T patients and what leads to lung damage. Diseases of the respiratory system can kill with up to 70% of A-T patients suffering from recurrent, chronic respiratory tract infections and up to 40% of deaths due to lung complications. Hence, Abrey's research will be fundamental in improving clinical approaches used to treat these infections and in designing alternative therapies.

Rare diseases like A-T are often underfunded but are a likely source of major scientific breakthroughs. Studying rare diseases can provide key insights into more common disorders. Additionally, rare diseases also allow the study human physiology and biomedical science from a unique perspective.

Professor Lavin, with whom Abrey works, is a leading researcher in genetic instability and a pioneering A-T expert with a solid international reputation.

He inspires her with his perseverance and steadfast dedication to understanding the pathological mechanisms of A-T. Abrey and the Lavin Group are heavily involved with the sole Australian A-T Clinic located at the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital. This close collaboration between UQCCR with its world-class research scientists , state-of-the-art facilities, and access to leading health professionals from the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and other hospitals enables bench-to-bedside, patient-oriented translational research.

Abrey is part of Professor Martin Lavin's research group.

The Lavin Group carries out research on rare genetic disorders characterised by chromosomal instability, increased risk of cancer and neurodegeneration. They work closely in collaboration with the Ataxia telangiectasia (A-T) Clinic at Lady Cilento Children's Hospital to investigate lung function and brain disorders. They are also developing a commercial blood collection tube for analyte determination and better patient care.

TEAM MEMBERS

Professor Martin Lavin, Dr Abrey Yeo, Ms Aine Farrell, Dr Amanda Kijas, Ms Hazel Quek, Mr John Luff, Dr Magtouf Hnaidi Gatei, Dr Olivier Becherel, Mr Romal Stewart, Dr Sergei Kozlov, Mr Steven Dingwall

Patrick

Dr Patrick Harris
BSc MBBS MRCP FRACP FRCPA

To support Dr Patrick Harris and the Paterson Group's superbug research, please donate at **www.uqccr.uq.edu.au**

Dr Patrick Harris is PhD scholar and researcher with Professor David Paterson. Professor Paterson researches the molecular and clinical epidemiology of infections with antibiotic resistant organisms within the Infection and Immunity theme at UQCCR.

The Paterson Group carries out research linking basic research on bacterial genetics with new approaches to investigating risks for infections with antibiotic resistant organisms.

TEAM MEMBERS

Professor David Paterson, Dr Patrick Harris, Dr Elda Righi, Dr Hosam Zowawi, Dr Hanna Sidjabat, Dr Charlotte Huber, Dr Minyon Avent, Dr John McNamara, Dr Sanmarie Schelbusch, Dr Anna Maria Perri, Dr Andrew Henderson, Dr Nahid Choudhury, Ms Nicole Gavin, Dr Diletta Pezzani, Dr Kate McCarthy, Mrs Tiffany Harris-Brown, Mrs Kyra Cottrell, Mr Alexander Wailan, Ms Penelope Lorenc, Mr Christopher Kwan, Dr Vikram Vaska

UQCCR RESEARCHER

Dr Patrick Harris
p.harris@uq.edu.au

EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS

Superbugs know no borders – the global challenge of antibiotic resistance

Antibiotic resistance has emerged in recent years as one of the most prominent threats to public health. Modern medicine would be impossible without the modern 'miracle' of antibiotics. Antibiotic resistance is thought to account for around 50,000 excess annual deaths in Europe and the USA alone. Many millions are infected every year, and by most measures these problems are increasing inexorably. In the USA alone, it is estimated that at least $20 billion in excess healthcare costs are directly attributable to antibiotic resistance. According to a recent UK government report, if current trends continue, by 2050 antimicrobial resistance is estimated to account for approximately 10 million deaths globally, more than are currently seen from cancer, with the greatest burden falling on developing countries in Africa or Asia. Furthermore this would lead to $60-100 trillion dollars in total lost global GDP.

The fight against antibiotic resistance is a multi-disciplinary and complex one, requiring the hybrid specialist knowledge of pathology and clinical medicine. This symbiotic relationship between the science of pathology and the art of medicine in treating patients with infectious diseases is increasingly needed as resistance increases at an alarming rate and fewer new antibiotics become available.

Patrick is both an infectious disease clinician as well as a medical microbiologist. This background has allowed him to inhabit the different ecosystems of the laboratory and the hospital. Nimbly crossing these boundaries has helped inform Patrick's approach to research. His PhD addresses the emerging global challenge of antibiotic resistance and his ongoing research is focused upon a class of resistance genes called "extended-spectrum" beta-lactamases (or ESBLs) seen in common bacteria such as E. coli or Klebsiella species. These are of importance because they are now increasingly encountered in clinical infections, and in some parts of the world have become alarmingly commonplace. ESBLs facilitate resistance to many of our most useful antibiotics – those based on penicillin and its derivatives.

Resistant superbugs force clinicians to increasingly employ broader-spectrum antibiotics to treat patients (for instance, the carbapenem group of antibiotics). This, in-turn, may create the unwanted side effect of increasing resistance in the next generation of superbugs. As superbugs know no borders, once the world loses the efficiency of the broad spectrum carbapenem group of antibiotics, there are usually very few effective options available. For patients in intensive care, or those undergoing complex procedures such as major surgery, organ transplantation or chemotherapy, antibiotic resistant infections can be devastating and are associated with considerable excess mortality.

The most reliable method to determine which treatment is the best option for individual patients is to compare available options in a randomised trial. It is remarkable that there have been almost no such trials conducted to help clinicians determine how to treat serious infections with ESBL-producing bacteria. At present, most of our knowledge relies upon laboratory findings, expert opinion or limited observational studies.

Under the leadership of Professor David Paterson, Patrick and his colleagues are undertaking multi-centre international randomised controlled trials to help answer important clinical questions, such as "Which antibiotics are most effective for treating infections caused by antibiotic resistant organisms?" or "Which antibiotics are more or less likely to be overcome by superbugs?"

The MERINO trial, is one such clinical trial which aims to test whether alternative antibiotics to carbapenems may be just as effective and facilitate less antibiotic resistance. So far progress has been good, with more than 190 patients recruited; it is expanding to more than 30 hospital sites in 10 countries – a truly multi-national effort that will bolster the generalisability of the study.

The Paterson Group also conducts research into examining the genetic mechanisms giving rise to the resistance in superbugs. In this way researchers can better understand how these genes are acquired, how the resistant bacteria may spread and how this information can be used to better target diagnostic tests, inform infection control responses and optimise patient treatment.

Patrick intends to pursue the next stage of his research career by translating the findings from these trials into clinical guidelines and influencing international practice. Even a modest decline in carbapenem use on a global scale could have significant benefits in curbing the rise of carbapenem resistance. The research network that has evolved as part of the MERINO trial also presents a unique opportunity to develop similar studies in this area. Many of the collaborating centres are experiencing some of the highest rates of antibiotic resistant infections in the world. As new antibiotic drugs are developed which can defeat resistant superbugs, it will be essential to test them with patients who are most likely to benefit.

The collaborative efforts on fighting antibiotic resistance would not be possible without the support of numerous researchers across Australia and the world, who lend their time to recruit patients, collect clinical data and provide bacterial isolates. The Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Foundation, Pathology Queensland, the Australian Society for Antimicrobials (ASA) and the International Society for Chemotherapy and The National University Hospital Singapore all provide critical support to the Paterson Group.

03

MID *CAREER*

RESEARCHERS

MID CAREER RESEARCHERS

Cell-to-cell communication *via exosome envelopes*

ABOVE The Exosome Biology Laboratory team

Cells in our body communicate by sending signals to surrounding cells by a process called exocytosis. Among other things, they release tiny microscopic envelopes called exosomes to surrounding cells giving signals on what to do. These exosome envelopes are secreted by a wide range of cells, including cancer cells. As the content of exosomes are unique to the cell type, the letter contains valuable biomarker information "fingerprints" of the releasing cells and their metabolic status.

The last ten years has seen an extraordinary amount of research interest generated in the field of exosomes. A wide range of biological fluids such as blood contain exosomes which carry specific information about a certain cell, can tell us exactly what is happening within the cells of our bodies. This can potentially mean that in the future, a simple blood test might be able to diagnostically tell clinician if a patient has ovarian cancer and replace the current practice of an invasive biopsy of tumour mass.

Carlos is the head of the Exosome Biology Laboratory within the Centre for Clinical Diagnostics (CCD) at UQCCR.

This laboratory conforms to the ISO standards (ISO17025 and 13185) where human exosomes can be isolated, characterised and their role clarified to understand their clinical utility as biomarkers of disease and therapeutic interventions.

Carlos is recognised as a national and international researcher working with extracellular vesicles and exosomes focused on reproductive biology (in particular, pregnancy and its complications). He has been a regular invited speaker at Australian and International meetings, e.g., Australasia Extracellular Vesicles Society, Society of Reproductive Investigation and International Society for Prenatal Diagnosis. Carlos also has an appointment at Ochsner Medical Center (New Orleans, USA) as Senior Clinical Research scientist.

One of the areas that Carlos' research group is focused on is Ovarian Cancer. Ovarian Cancer is the sixth most commonly reported cancer and the fifth leading cause of cancer-related deaths. In the last five years they have identified the presence of exosome envelopes capable of transporting their contents comprising cancer cells elsewhere within the bodies of ovarian cancer patients. The identification of these exosome envelopes as a diagnostic tool in early stage Ovarian Cancer can well offer an option to develop therapeutic exosome envelopes to deliver the treatment to the cancer source.

Ovarian Cancer is commonly acknowledged as a "silent killer" because of difficulties associated with early diagnosis and consequently has a low survival rate.

As well as operating as biomarkers for early detection, Carlos hopes that the insight of exosomes in their current role of communicating with other organs, to promote the spread of cancer as they transport molecular signals between cells, can in the future, be used instead as anti-metastatic agents to halt its spread. Presently in Ovarian Cancer patients, some experience resistance to chemotherapy. Carlos will use this novel exosomes insight to understand how patients with ovarian cancer respond to chemotherapy. By uncovering these reasons, it is hoped that from the time of their initial diagnosis, patients who are not expected to respond to chemotherapy can receive alternative and for them, more effective treatments.

In addition to researching ovarian cancer, he has a track record in researching the effect of obesity in the development of Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM). GDM is a serious public health issue affecting 8 to 15 per cent of all pregnancies worldwide and Australia is no exception; it has inter-generational impact with the female offspring from a GDM pregnancy going on to experience GDM in her own pregnancy. Failure to provide the best possible start to life because of complications remains the single most important modifiable risk factor in pregnancy, contributing not only to acute adverse health effects for both mother and baby, but also to the lifelong disease susceptibility of the new-born. Again exosomes may offer the possibility of early dedication; here in relation to women at risk of developing GDM during their pregnancies. Exosomes are biomarker "fingerprints" of the releasing cells, in this instance cells from the placenta. Exosomes may enable the tracking of cellular metabolic rate and early identification of a placental imbalance which could subsequently fail to fully meet the growing baby's needs.

THE EXOSOME BIOLOGY LABORATORY TEAM MEMBERS

Mrs Katherin Scholz-Romero, Mr Andrew Lai, Ms Miharu Kobayashi, Mrs Mona Alharbi, Sushismita Sarker, Mr Dominic Guanzon, Mr Omar Elfeky, Mr Mohammad Zubaidi, Ms Shayna Sharma, Ms Vyjayanthi Kinhal, Ms Stefani Adams, Miss Zarin Nuzhat, Miss Christine Chang

UQCCR RESEARCHER

Dr Carlos Salomon
c.salomongallo@uq.edu.au

Carlos's research seeks to establish the role of exosomes present in maternal circulation on the metabolic changes during normal and GDM pregnancies. Identification of the mechanisms associated with exosomes signalling during pregnancy might open doors to new treatment and approaches for GDM. Finally, Carlos and his group will evaluate the use of exosomes for early identification (<18 weeks) of pregnant women who are at risk of developing GDM.

A third strand of Carlos' research is targeted towards pancreatic cysts, currently a condition without clear biomarkers or imaging methods to accurately diagnose, classify and distinguish between the status of benign, premalignant and malignant cysts. He intends to research tumor-derived exosomes and examine the molecular content of these exosomes, which represent the tumour's fingerprint and status, to aid in the diagnosis and prognosis of malignant pancreatic tumours.

Carlos would like to thank his mentor Professor Gregory Rice and fellow collaborators Associate Professor Gregory Duncombe, Dr Sherri Longo, Dr Steve Fortunato, Dr Richard Kline, Dr Virendra Joshi, Associate Professor Ram Menon and Professor Hayden Homer. Importantly, the research projects are funded and supported by the NHMRC, the Royal Brisbane Women's Hospital Foundation, Diabetes Australia, The University of Queensland and the Ochsner Medical Center (New Orleans, USA).

Carlos

Dr Carlos Salomon
BSc MSc DMedSc PhD

To support Dr Carlos Salomon's research into exosomes, please donate at www.uqccr.uq.edu.au

MID CAREER RESEARCHERS

A healthy baby is *every mother's wish*

Dr Marloes Dekker is Senior Research Fellow in Metabolism, Microbiome and Epigenetics within the Mothers, Babies and Lifelong Health theme at UQCCR.

These researchers seek to understand complications of pregnancy in order to find ways of preventing them. They are conducting a randomised controlled trial involving 436 overweight and obese women in collaboration with Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and the Mater Mothers Hospital. The group also closely collaborates with the UQ School of Biomedical Sciences, Pathology Queensland, QIMR Berghofer and Lund University in Sweden.

TEAM MEMBERS

Dr Marloes Dekker, Dr Helen Barrett, Dr Helen Robinson, Ms Luisa Gomez Arango, Dr Kristine Matusiak, Mr William Carey-Foster, Mr Clement Chow

UQCCR RESEARCHER

Dr Marloes Dekker
m.dekker@uq.edu.au

Marloes

Dr Marloes Dekker

MSc, Med. Lic, PhD, Grad Cert *(clinical trials)*

To support Dr Marloes Dekker's research into helping fulfil every mother's wish for a healthy baby, donate on www.uqccr.uq.edu.au

A healthy start to life for a little baby begins with a healthy woman having an uncomplicated pregnancy. We know that the time spent in a mother's womb continues to affect the baby throughout his or her lifetime. In Australia, just over 40 percent of all pregnant women are overweight or obese; the number of people who are overweight or obese has increased dramatically in the last few decades. These women unfortunately face a higher chance of developing pregnancy complications including gestational diabetes and preeclampsia. Their babies often weigh more and have higher fat mass at birth and generally are more likely to spend time in the special care nursery. Furthermore, both mother and child face higher risks of developing type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease in the future.

Marloes' research aims to prevent the development of gestational diabetes especially in overweight and obese women. Her research group is conducting a large randomised clinical trial which is called the Study of PRobiotics IN Gestational diabetes or SPRING.

The aim of SPRING is to test if gestational diabetes can be prevented using an intervention of oral probiotic supplements during pregnancy while assessing its impact on metabolism, gene expression and hereditary traits. Probiotics are "good-bugs" bacteria that have a known beneficial health effect. For this trial, a large number of women volunteers contributed stool, placenta, mouth-swab and blood samples to increase our understanding of how probiotics may actually work. In the research laboratory, Marloes is investigating if the microbiome (the composition of bacteria in a specific location—of the gut, the mouth and the placenta) is related to pregnancy complications and if oral probiotic supplements could possibly alter the microbiome, and therefore contribute to a lower risk of complications in pregnancy and beyond.

Concurrently, her research group is also involved in investigating what effects gestational diabetes and preeclampsia have on metabolism in the placenta.

Ultimately, Marloes and her research group aim to discover prevention methods that are easy to implement and affordable so every baby can have a healthy start to life.

Human health and disease has fascinated Marloes since she was at high school. Questions like "How does the human body work?" and "Why and how does the system break down and cause disease?" have driven her choice to study medical biology initially at the University of Amsterdam in The Netherlands. Marloes' exposure to research projects in laboratories in The Netherlands, the USA, the UK and Sweden while an undergraduate made her realise the deep satisfaction she experienced while carrying out research and working with like-minded researchers.

She then pursued a PhD in Sweden studying metabolism and its key role in many aspects of health and diseases. Her first post-doctoral research was on the role of epigenetics in type 2 diabetes. This led her to realise what critical importance a baby's gestational period in its mother's womb was to its future health.

Research into the role of the microbiome in pregnancy is expanding rapidly and Marloes' interest is to pursue and explore the benefit of probiotics to help give all babies a healthy start to life. Marloes and her research group expect the results from SPRING to be the starting point for developing different interventions that can help achieve a healthy pregnancy for all women. A further research study combining oral probiotics with myo-inositol supplements and investigating its role in preventing gestational diabetes in high-risk pregnant women is planned.

Marloes' research is a made a reality because pregnant mothers freely volunteer their time for the research at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH), the Mater Mothers' Hospital and Redcliffe Hospital; and due to the dedication of clinical research midwifes and staff at these hospitals. Importantly, the research projects are funded and supported by the NHMRC, the RBWH Foundation, Queensland Health and Pfizer Australia. The Danish probiotics company Chr. Hansen A/S has been generous in their donation of oral probiotics and placebo capsules for the SPRING study. Support has also been received from the Skip Martin Fellowship from the Australian Diabetes Association and Colciencias in Colombia.

MID CAREER RESEARCHERS

Shedding light on the causes of breast cancer *development and progression*

A cancer diagnosis can bring about significant fear and uncertainty into the lives of patients and their loved ones. In Australia as many as one in eight Australian women will be diagnosed with breast cancer by the time they are 85 years old. Breast cancer, like other cancers, is challenging to diagnose and manage because we are still trying to understand the different causes of what is a very complex disease. Hence, the ongoing goals of research is to increase our understanding of how it develops in the first place and then to figure out how it progresses or spreads to other parts of the body (metastasis). This knowledge will help translate into the development of better treatment for patients so that we can make breast cancer either a curable or more manageable disease.

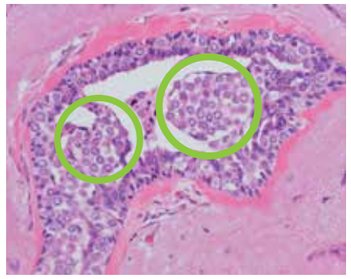
Cancer develops largely due to alterations (mutations) that happen within the genetic code (DNA) of our cells. Using the analogy that the genetic code is like a book of about three billion letters (the human genome), then there are more than 20,000 chapters (genes) that code for the functional units of our cells – the proteins. Errors in our genetic code commonly occur throughout our lifetime. Normally our cells can sense and repair these errors, but occasionally this protective mechanism fails and a mutation of one letter in an important gene may remain. This may inactivate a critical protein and hence represent the initial cause of a cancer to develop.

Peter's research is presently focused on the invasive lobular carcinoma (ILC) type of breast cancer, which represents approximately 15% of all breast cancers. He is also very involved with research into the causes and consequences of familial breast cancer, which explains how breast cancer can run in a family. His research investigates the patterns of errors in breast cancer DNA in order to understand what cellular processes go wrong to cause cancer.

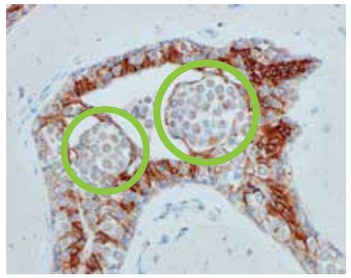
Peter has made significant discoveries covering different stages of breast tumour development and progression (early disease, invasive cancer and metastatic disease), which have helped shaped how breast cancer is treated. Using the lessons learnt from these studies, Peter is also involved in research into other types of cancer like lung and thyroid cancer. Overall, his research gives insight not only into the causes and progression of cancer but will also identify better ways to treat the disease.

After being touched by the loss of a family friend to breast cancer, Peter embarked on a PhD studying the disease at the University of Liverpool (UK). Subsequently, he secured his first postdoctoral position with the Breakthrough Breast Cancer Research Centre in London. While there Peter frequently engaged with the community, explaining his research to patients, families and fundraisers. This highlighted to him the importance of distilling research into accessible language so the community can be informed. This experience left a permanent impression on Pete and today at UQCCR, he and his team members engage with the community to make their research relevant to patients with the disease.

After relocating his family to Brisbane, following his mentor Professor Sunil Lakhani, Peter helped establish UQCCR's cutting-edge Molecular Breast Cancer Pathology research lab and the Brisbane Breast Bank. Subsequently, Peter received a four year Early Career Fellowship from the National Breast Cancer Foundation to further his research into ILC. On top of his crucial research, he is now also a senior lecturer within the Department of Pathology at the UQ School of Medicine. In this role Peter teaches medical students about the underlying processes that cause disease, a fundamental component of education for the next generation of clinicians.



ABOVE Tissue section of a breast duct showing tumour cells (circled in green)



ABOVE Same tissue section, showing tumour cells without the critical protein E-cadherin (white) (circled in green), amongst the brown healthy breast cells

Given the complexity of cancer research, Peter collaborates extensively with researchers and clinicians from Pathology Queensland, the Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital, UQ Institute of Molecular Biosciences, QIMR-Berghofer, The International Cancer Genome Consortium and kConFab (Kathleen Cuningham Foundation Consortium for research into Familial Breast cancer). Biomedical research like Peter's is only made possible by patients generously donating their tissue samples to tissue banks such as the Brisbane Breast Bank, the Australian Breast Cancer Tissue Bank and kConFab. Crucial financial support for his research has come from the NHMRC, the National Breast Cancer Foundation, the Cancer Council of Australia, Cancer Australia and Pathology Queensland.

Dr Peter Simpson is a senior lecturer in the UQ School of Medicine and a research group leader in the cancer theme at UQCCR. He is also a member of the International Cancer Genome Consortium Breast Cancer Group.

The Simpson Group works in tandem with the Lakhani Group (see page 18) carrying out research focused on understanding the mechanisms of breast cancer development and progression. The groups collaborate closely with researchers and clinicians locally at the UQ Institute of Molecular Biosciences, Pathology Queensland, The Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital, the Wesley Breast Clinic and QIMR Berghofer, as well as other national and international institutes.

TEAM MEMBERS

Dr Andrew Dalley, Dr Julie Johnson, Dr Sriganesh Srihari (based at the IMB), Mr Samir Lal, Ms Renique Males and Dr Jamie Kutasovic

UQCCR RESEARCHER

Dr Peter Simpson

p.simpson@uq.edu.au

Peter

Dr Peter Simpson

BSc (Hons) PhD FRCPA

To help maintain the Brisbane Breast Bank and support Dr Peter Simpson's research, please donate at www.uqccr.uq.edu.au

MID CAREER RESEARCHERS

Parkinson's disease – *the hidden changes*

Parkinson's disease (Parkinsons) is a progressive brain disease. Unfortunately it affects people in the later stages of life and is a relatively common neurological disease. At face value, Parkinsons is characterised by changes in a person's ability to move and hence termed a movement disorder. The noticeable changes are due to tremor, stiffness, slowness in movement, difficulties in walking and balance problems. However, deeper non-movement related issues like anxiety, depression and dementia frequently dominate the clinical picture. Given that in Australia, one in every 340 people live with Parkinsons, this can have an adverse impact on their quality of life, often to a greater extent than the movement disability.

Nadeeka is a research fellow at UQCCR, and an adjunct fellow at Department of Neurology, Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital and the UQ School of Psychology. She leads the Neuro Mental Health (NMH) group at UQCCR. Her multidisciplinary research spans across basic science (like pharmacology, physiology and genetics), clinical science and medicine (like epidemiology, psychology, psychiatry, neurology, neurosurgery, cognitive neuroscience, neuroimaging and addiction).

Nadeeka's primary research interest is on the neuropsychiatric complications associated with Parkinsons including anxiety, depression, dementia and medication induced impulse control disorders (ICDs).

These complications frequently dominate the clinical picture and often impact negatively on a patient's quality of life, more so than the visibly noticeable motor disability.

She is the principal investigator of the IDATA-PD study initiated to Improve Diagnosis And Treatment of Anxiety in Parkinson's Disease. Anxiety is common, affecting one in every two people. It significantly impairs activities of daily living for both patients and their carers. While two thirds of anxious patients do not receive any treatment for their anxiety, of those who do receive medication, only 20 per cent respond positively. To complicate matters, anxiety in Parkinsons presents with unique and complex symptoms, which must be understood and addressed if psychological treatment is to be effective.

The NMH clinical research group have led a comprehensive investigation into current anxiety assessment methods for Parkinsons. The IDATA-PD study led them to extensively profile anxiety symptoms which has now contributed to a better understanding of anxiety related uniquely to the disease. This includes anxiety relating to motor disability and motor fluctuations. Nadeeka's commitment to improving the daily lives of Parkinsons patients has led her to develop a new Parkinsons-specific anxiety questionnaire. This measures the change to anxiety levels in response to tailored psychotherapy treatment. The IDATA-PD study was the first to pilot Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) for anxiety in Parkinsons patients.

The pilot has demonstrated significant immediate and persistent reductions in anxiety related to Parkinsons and considerably lowered carer burden.

In addition to developing evidence-based targeted treatments to combat anxiety, Nadeeka and her IDATA-PD study researchers are working to increase access to psychological care for urban, rural and mobility impaired patients. Nadeeka and her NMH group hope to trial CBT for anxiety in Parkinsons using telehealth video conferencing technologies.

CBT delivered via telehealth could assist in getting much-needed treatment to a wider community. Telehealth minimises the travel burden and cost for patients.

Nadeeka's other projects are focussed on identifying damaged brain networks in patients with depression and dementia (IBN-PD study), and developing new treatment for drug-induced impulse control disorders (ICD-PD study). The IBN-PD study uses non-invasive high density electroencephalography (EEG) brain imaging techniques, to identify differences between patients with high and low depression rates. It has implications for the early detection and treatment of depression as it provides clues to damaged brain wiring linked to emotional processing known in depression.

Furthermore, the NMH group is conducting functional magnetic resonance brain imaging (fMRI) at the new state-of-the-art Herston Imaging Research Facility (HIRF) next to UQCCR, in a study seeking to identify early markers that indicate the onset of dementia. About 80 per cent of Parkinsons patients develop dementia. Researchers are examining patients at risk of developing dementia, to further refine early detection methods in order to inform the developing of new therapies that can prevent or delay the onset of dementia.

The ICD-PD project is a large national collaborative study. Impulse control disorders (ICDs) are experienced by one in five Parkinsons patients treated with medication that increases dopamine activity within their brains. These include pathological gambling, compulsive shopping and hyper sexuality, which often impact negatively on social functioning. This can result in bankruptcy, arrest and marital/ family break downs.

The project involves interviews with patients, carers and clinicians. It aims to develop a method to identify patients at risk of developing ICDs, and to develop new treatments to manage these devastating medication-induced side effects.

Nadeeka's collaborative research work at the NMH group, UQCCR would not be possible without the support of the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and Foundation, Parkinson's Queensland Inc, Lions Medical Research Foundation, UQ and the NHMRC. These funds facilitate the continuing evidence-based development of innovative treatment and technology methods to provide targeted therapies for Parkinson's disease patients suffering from mental dysfunction. Nadeeka and her group of researchers are committed to improving the quality of life of patients for this progressive incurable brain disease.

The Neuro Mental Health (NMH) group at the University of Queensland Centre for Clinical Research (UQCCR) has a vision to use innovative treatment and technology methods to provide accurate targeted therapies for Parkinson's disease patients afflicted by mental dysfunction. This group closely collaborates with School of Psychology, The University of Queensland and Department of Neurology, Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital.

UQCCR RESEARCHER
Dr Nadeeka Dissayanaka
n.dissanayaka@uq.edu.au

Nadeeka

Dr Nadeeka Dissayanaka
BSc (Hons 1), PhD

To support Dr Nadeeka Dissayanaka and the Neuro Mental Health group's research, please donate at www.uqccr.edu.au

MID CAREER RESEARCHERS

Placental tissue gives gift of life *a second time around*

The human body has an amazing capacity to regenerate and heal to maintain normal function, but what exactly are the processes involved that allow for this to occur? And how can medicine assist in maintaining normal function, for example during illness or after injury?

The placenta is an organ that has a duty to protect and supply the developing baby with nutrients during pregnancy can be preserved to give life again since it is an abundant reservoir of highly potent blood vessel stem cells, called endothelial progenitors (EPCs). These EPC stem cells extracted from placental tissue (usually discarded after birth) can now be used to develop treatments for patients with diabetes or chronic cardiovascular disease, preventing devastating health outcomes like amputation. Until now, it has not been possible to extract EPCs in sufficient quantities for use in treatments.

Prior to Jatin's postdoctoral research at UQCCR, he completed his PhD at the QIMR Berghofer facility investigating the cellular transport processes across the placenta from the pregnant mother to the developing baby. This process is enabled by the formation of a complex network of blood vessels throughout the placenta, which progressively expand due to the function of EPCs during pregnancy to keep up with the increasing demand for nutrients from the growing baby.

Through the research and experiments conducted by Jatin and his colleagues within the Khosrotehrani Group, they discovered that isolated EPCs formed new blood vessels when injected into models of leg ischemia in mice. Associate Professor Kiarash Khosrotehrani, Jatin's mentor and Head of the Experimental Dermatology Group at UQCCR, led the research to determine that when injected EPCs spur blood vessel growth and improve blood flow by up to 30 to 40 percent in three weeks.

This was a real breakthrough and could potentially provide additional therapy options for patients with conditions such as type two diabetes or ischemia, where blood flow is restricted resulting in severe debilitating pain or persistent wounds that just won't heal. For patients whose blood flow is so restricted as to require an amputation of their affected limb, this is good news indeed.

Jatin's postdoctoral research has led to an innovative new technique to harvest large quantities of EPCs from the placenta, enabling both the respectful re-use of the placenta, and a sustainable translation of research to clinical ready-to-use quantities of EPCs for patients. This innovative isolation technique was patented in 2014 and in 2015, the licensing agreement with a US biotechnology company was completed, which will allow for the development of a clinical trial in the near future.

The research arena of tissue regeneration is expanding rapidly and Jatin's interest is to pursue and explore the benefit of adding EPCs onto the surface of medical devices, such as stents and further research into the benefits of infusing stem cells intravenously. Jatin is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow with the National Heart Foundation of Australia, which assists promising researchers like Jatin to become recognised as leaders in the field of cardiovascular research.

This collaborative research work would not be possible without the support of the generous mothers of the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital who donate their placentas to research, and the midwives who volunteer their time to assist in recruitment. Apart from his postdoctoral fellowship from the National Heart Foundation of Australia, Jatin receives support from the Rebecca L. Cooper Foundation, American Society for Reproductive Medicine, UniQuest, the Australasian College of Dermatologists, UQ and the NHMRC. These funds facilitate the continuing development of cutting-edge tissue regeneration techniques as well as expanding knowledge.

Dr Jatin Patel is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Associate Professor Kiarash Khosrotehrani's research group.

The Khosrotehrani Group carries out research on studying endogenous stem cell populations of the skin and vasculature to understand their role in tissue regeneration and cancer formation. They work closely with collaborators at the IMB, QUT-IHBI and TRI research facilities using numerous model to study their hypotheses. They are also working directly with their US partners to begin a clinical trial using EPC isolated from the placenta using the licenced technology that was developed here at UQCCR. It is hoped that a clinical trial will begin in early 2017.

TEAM MEMBERS

Dr Jatin Patel, Dr Edwige Roy, Dr Rehan Villani, Dr Prudence Donovan, Ms Ho Yi Wong, Mr Abbas Shafiee, Mrs Betoul Baz, Mr James Lee, Mr Aravindhakshan Ramachandran, Ms Tehani De Silva, Ms Seen Ling Sim, Mr Nicholas Muller, Mr Basit Salik, Ms Ayaka Aymk.

UQCCR RESEARCHER

Dr Jatin Patel

j.patel@uq.edu.au

Jatin

Dr Jatin Patel BSc (Hons) PhD

To support Dr Jatin Patel and the Khosrotehrani Group's stem cell research, please donate at www.uqccr.edu.au

04

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

Research Grants

New grants awarded in 2015 with a UQCCR lead investigator totalled $7,828,703.
UQCCR researchers are indicated in bold.

GRANTING BODY	INVESTIGATORS (CI'S ONLY, NOT AI'S)	PROJECT TITLE	DATES	TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT
Queensland Institute of Medical Research Project Grant	**Khosrotehrani K**, Walker G	Systems analysis of epidermal biology and cancer (NHMRC Project Grant administered by QIMR)	2015-2018	$144,718
Australian National University	**Paterson D**, Clements A, Riley T V	Clostridium difficile: assessing the risks to Australia of an emerging healthcare-related pathogen (NHMRC Project Grant administered by ANU)	2014-2015	$120,427
Rebecca Lee Copper Medical Research Foundation Limited	**Patel J, Khosrotehrani K**	Laser doppler perfusion imaging (LDPI) of revascularisation sites following vascular stem cell therapy	2015-2015	$22,000
RBWH Foundation	**Dissanayaka N,** Byrne G, O'Sullivan J, **Marsh R,** Pachana N	Mindfulness therapy for depression, anxiety, motor and cognitive dysfunction in Parkinson's disease	2015-2016	$40,000
RBWH Foundation	**Cervin A,** Earnshaw J, Morcom S	The role of the bacterial, fungal and viral sinus microbiome in chronic rhinosinusitis patients	2015-2015	$30,000
Lundbeck Australia Pty Ltd	**Byrne G**	Clinical Study No. 14863A, Randomised, double-blind, parallel-group, placebo-controlled study of LuAE58054 in patients with mild-moderate Alzheimer's disease treated with an acetylcholinesterase inhibitor; Study 3	2014-2018	$106,461
UQ Ochsner seed fund for collaborative research	**Salomon C, Long S, Rice G, Mitchell M**	Placenta-derived exosomes, a possible biomarker for early detection of complication of pregnancies	2015-2015	$30,000
Lalor Foundation	**Pieris H**	Regulation of myostatin production and actions of myostatin in the human placenta	2015-2015	$52,364
Research Donation Generic	**Salomon C, Kobayashi M**	Determining the role of tumor-derived exosomes in the progression of ovarian cancer	2015-2018	$22,588
The Garnett Passe & Rodney Williams Memorial Foundation	**Cervin A,** Bialasiewicz S	Microbiota of the human sinuses. Its role in health and disease	2015-2018	$375,000
HIV Foundation Queensland	**Whiley D**, Lang C, Lambert S, Smith H, **Trembizki E**	New molecular tools to identify groups of individuals at increased risk of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) acquisition	2015-2016	$56,956
Monash University	**Rose S**	Glioma Imaging - Brain Cancer Discovery Collaborative	2015-2016	$300,000
Worldwide Clinical Trials Pty Limited	**Byrne G**	Protocol No. TRx-237-020: An open-label, extension study of the effects of leuco-methylthioninium bis(hydromethanesulfonate) in subjects with Alzheimer's disease or behavioral variant frontotemporal dementia	2015-2018	$36,891
LEO Foundation	**Khosrotehrani K, Roy E**	The natural history of skin cancer formation: from normal skin to cancer	2015-2016	$268,239
RBWH Foundation	**Henderson R, McCombe P**	Mass spectrometry to search for biomarkers in motor neurone disease	2015-2015	$40,000
University of Melbourne	**Lakhani S,** Anderson S, Swarbrick A, Johnstone R, Chua B, Gill A, Khanna K, Loi S, O'Toole S, Saunders C, Lim E	NBCF repository of primary tumours and metastases from breast cancer patients (National Breast Cancer Foundation grant led by The University of Melbourne)	2015-2019	$172,000
Ochsner Clinic Foundation	**Greer J**, Bagert B, Pender M	Do antibodies against myelin proteolipid protein play a role in multiple sclerosis?	2014-2015	$29,902
UQ Vice-Chancellor's Research and Teaching Fellowship	**Copland D**	Improving aphasia outcomes through researching recovery and enriched clinical training	2016-2019	$722,616
UQ M+BS Emerging Leaders Grant	**Salomon C**	Host-tumor-derived exosomes interactions in the progression of ovarian cancer	2015-2015	$10,000
UQ M+BS Emerging Leaders Grant	**Pieris H**	Evaluating the differential expression and functional role of myostatin in placentae of pregnancies complicated with gestational diabetes	2015-2015	$10,000
UQ M+BS Emerging Leaders Grant	**Wixey J**	Enhancing brain outcomes in growth restricted newborns	2015-2015	$10,000
Cha Award in Stem Cell Technology (American Society for Reproductive Medicine)	**Patel J**	Placental endothelial progenitors and mesenchymal stem cells in the treatment of vascular disease and tissue regeneration	2015-2016	$26,882
Multiple Sclerosis Research Australia	**Greer J**	Developing a xenograft mouse model for multiple sclerosis	2015-2016	$25,000
Pathology Queensland	**Paterson D, Whiley D**	Combating the new antimicrobial resistance threat: development and implementation of cost-effective molecular surveillance tools	2015-2015	$20,195
Cancer Council Queensland	**Rose S,** Martin J, Fay M, Thomas P, Head R, Cosgrove L. Dowson N	Targeting existing therapies with innovative technology platforms to improve survival in brain cancer	2014-2015	$200,000
University of Auckland	**Lack G**, Groom K	STRIDER (NZAus): A randomised controlled trial of sildenafil therapy in dismal prognosis early-onset intrauterine growth restriction (New Zealand and Australia) (led by the University of Auckland)	2015-2017	$6,310
NHMRC Project Grant	**Homer H,** Gilchrist R, Carroll J, Ledger W	A BubR1-centred network for non-invasively measuring human oocyte quality	2015-2017	$490,616
RBWH Foundation	**Dissanayaka N,** Byrne G, O'Sullivan J, **Marsh R,** Pachana N	Cognitive behaviour therapy for anxiety in Parkinson's disease: outcomes for patients and caregivers	2016-2016	$40,000
University of Sydney	**Lack G,** Koorts P, Tarnow-Mordi W	Does Lactoferrin improve survival free from morbidity in very low birth weight infants? Lactoferrin Infant Feeding Trial: a randomised controlled trial.	2015-2017	$30,000
NHMRC Practitioner Fellowship	**Scott J**	Prevention and Management of Youth Mental Illness	2016-2020	$333,258
Cancer Bequest Fund (Cancer Research Fund)	**Lakhani S**	Repurposing HER2/3 antibodies for treatment of brain metastases from breast cancer	2015-2016	$99,488
Motor Neuron Disease Research Institute of Australia	**Steyn F, McCombe P, Henderson R, Ngo S**	Metabolic and gut dynamics in MND: Identifying novel strategies to meet energy needs in patients	2016-2016	$100,000
Motor Neuron Disease Research Institute of Australia	**Henderson R, McCombe P,** Wray N	Using biomarkers to explore heterogeneity of motor neurone disease	2016-2016	$100,000
Menzies School of Health Research	**Paterson D,** Davis J, Tong S, Fowler V, Howden P, Cheng A, Chatfield, Lipman J, van Hal S, O'Sullivan M	CAMERA 2: Combination antibiotic treatment for methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus bacteraemia - a randomised controlled trial (NHMRC Project Grant administered by Menzies School of Health Research)	2015-2019	$200
ARC Discovery Project	**Copland D,** McMohan K, Erickson K, **Rodriguez A,** Coombes J	Enhancing Language Learning in Ageing With Exercise	2016-2018	$401,000
NHMRC Career Development Fellowship	**Whiley D**	Gonorrhoea: detection, antimicrobial resistance and treatment.	2016-2019	$463,652
NHMRC Project Grant	**Greer J,** Bryan M, **Scott J,** David B, Wolvetang E	Investigating the aetiopathogenic role of autoantibodies against the M1 muscarinic acetylcholine receptor in patients with first episode of schizophrenia	2016-2019	$830,986
NHMRC Development Grant	**Rice G, Salomon C, Illanes S**	In vitro diagnostic for first trimester risk assignment of gestational diabetes	2016-2018	$580,983
UQ Fellowships	**Khosrotehrani K,** Soyer P, **Paterson D**	Translational dermatology in skin and skin cancer research	2016-2018	$217,349
Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Foundation	**Colditz P, Wixey J, Sullivan S, Lai M**	Protecting growth restricted newborn brains by reducing inflammation	2016-2016	$44,000
National Heart Foundation of Australia	**Patel J**	National Heart Foundation Collaboration and Exchange Award - The impact of vessel resident stem cells during atherogenesis	2016-2016	$5,000
The A-T Children's Project	**Rose S,** Sinclair K, **Lavin M**	Ultra-short echo time (UTE) magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) for automatic analysis of paediatric ataxia telangiectasia progression and treatment response	2015-2016	$19,033
Vice-Chancellor's Research Focused Fellowship	**Paterson D**	Epidemiology and treatment of multiresistant Gram negative bacilli	2015-2018	$387,353
NHMRC Project Grant	**Copland D, Meinzer M**, De Zubicaray G, Farell A, Burfein P, Read S, Bradley A, Wong A	Predicting and Promoting Aphasia Recovery	2016-2019	$710,136
RBWH Foundation	**Scott J**	Anti-Neuronal Antibodies in patients with treatment refractory psychotic disorders	2016-2016	$57,100
UQ Ochsner seed fund for collaborative research	**Rice G, Longo S, Salomon C**	Phase 1 biomarker trial: Identification and validation of maternal plasma exosomal biomarkers in pregnancies diagnosed with preeclampsia	2016-2016	$50,000

New grants awarded in 2015 where a UQCCR investigator is part of the research team totalled $7,856,336. UQCCR researchers are indicated in bold.

GRANTING BODY	INVESTIGATORS (CI'S ONLY, NOT AI'S)	PROJECT TITLE	DATES	TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT
Queensland Health Strategic Health Initiatives	Czovek D, Sly P, **Dekker Nitert M, Callaway L**, McIntyre D	Longitudinal effects of probiotic supplementation during pregnancy on the body composition and growth of infants	2015-2015	$78,000
QCMR and QUT Collaborative Seeding Grants Scheme	Toms L, Harden F, Sly P, **Callaway L, Dekker M, Barrett H**, Maher B, English K, Mueller J	study of environmental pollutants—transfer from mother to fetus	2015-2015	$25,000
Motor Neurone Disease Research Institute of Australia Inc	Woodruff T, Cooper M, **McCombe P**, Schroder K, Gordon R	Therapeutic targeting of the NLRP3 inflammasome using a potent and orally active inhibitor in experimental MND	2015-2016	$110,000
Stanley Medical Research Institute	Berk M, McGrath J, Dean O, Lapau W, Dodds S, **Scott J**, Dark F.	The efficacy of adjunctive Garcinia mangostana Linn (mangosteen) pericarp for the treatment of Schizophrenia: A double-blind, randomized, placebo controlled trial.	2015-2018	$1,156,112
RBWH Foundation	Wong A, Coulthard S, Read S, Finnigan S	Continuous Monitoring During Acute Stroke Reperfusion Therapy.	2014-2015	$60,000
ARC Discovery Project	Copland D, Angwin A, Barry R, Wilson W	The flipside of noise: Does it benefit listening and learning?	2016-2018	$359,000
NHMRC Development Grant	Cooper M, Blaskovich M, **Paterson D**, Roberts J, Hansford K, Turnidge J, Graeme N	Novel membrane-targeted antibiotics against drug-resistant Gram-positive bacterial infections	2018-2018	$1,351,496
RBWH Foundation	**Callaway L, Dekker M, Paterson D, Barrett H**, De Jersey S	Is the resistome in the gut microbiome in pregnant women changing pregnancy outcomes?	2016-2016	$38,968
NHMRC Project Grant	Mihalopoulos C, Richardson J, **Scott J**, Viney R, Brazier J, Chen G	Determining the Best Outcome Measures for Assessing Cost-Effectiveness of Interventions for Childhood Mental Disorders	2016-2018	$473,837
John Hunter Hospital Charitable Trust	Pringle K, **Lingwood B**, Wake C, Wright IM.	Expression of Adrenoceptor Subtypes in Preterm and Term Hearts	2015-015	$25,222
Office of Health Protection, Department of Health	Gilks C, Dobson A, Mclaughlin D, Van Driel M, **Paterson D, Avent M**, Del Mar C, Hansen M, Halton K, Lisa H	Development of evidence-based approaches that will improve antimicrobial stewardship and infection prevention and control in general practice settings	2015-2016	$910,523
NHMRC-ARC Dementia Research Development Fellowship	Scott T, Mitchell M, **Liddle J**, Pachana N, Beattie E	Rolling it out: Targeted translation intervention to improve driving cessation outcomes for people with dementia across metropolitan and regional areas'	2016-2019	$594,644
National Stroke Foundation Seed Grant	Gustafsson L, **Liddle J**, Cornwall P, Kuys S, McBride S	The impact of MISTRENGTH on community participation after mild stroke	2015-2106	$49,997
ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language Transdisciplinary and Innovative Grant.	Ireland D, Wiles J, Chenery H, **Knuepffer C, Liddle J, Copland D**	'Workshop series - Making 'Harlie the Chatbot'	2015-2015	$5,805
Australian Infectious QIMRB-UQ Diseases Seed Grants	Bell S, **Sidjabat S**, Sherrard L	The acquired resistome of Pseudomonas aeruginosa strains in people with CF	2016-2016	$50,000
NHMRC Project Grant	Zakar T, Hirst J, **Mitchell M**	Epigenetic regulation of inflammatory genes in the fetal membranes: role in term and preterm birth (NHMRC Project Grant administered by the University of Newcastle)	2015-2017	$452,728
NHMRC Project Grant	Schofield P, Juraskova I, Frydenberg M, **Chambers S**, Gordon L, **Gardiner F**	ASTROID: Active Surveillance and other TReatment OptIons for prostate cancer. A randomised controlled trial of decision aid and DVD information support for men diagnosed with low-risk prostate cancer and their partners (NHMRC Project Grant administered by Swinburne University of Technology)	2015-2019	$749,704
NHMRC Information Joint Calls grant	Chen C, Yang J, **Barnett N**, Kwan A, Yang G, Xin Z	Biomarkers for the treatment and prognosis of sight-threatening diabetic retinopathy	2016-2020	$598,305
NHMRC Project Grant	Ngo S, **Steyn F**, Noakes P, Bellingham M, Wolvetang E	Bioenergetic deficit in neurodegeneration: studies in motor neuron disease (MND)	2016-2018	$320,983
NHMRC Project Grant	Baumann O, Guo C, Schmahmann J, **Rose S**, Mattingley J, Barth M	High-resolution brain imaging of cerebellar non-motor functions	2016-2018	$336,012
Prostate Cancer Foundation Australia	Alexandrov K, Stein V, **Gardiner R**	Development of highly sensitive diagnostic test for active form of prostate specific antigen	2016-2018	$110,000

APPENDIX 2

UQCCR Publications

Books Chapters 2015

1. **Farah, C. S., Jessri, M.,** Kordbacheh, F., Bennett, N. C., & **Dalley, A.** (2015). Next-Generation Sequencing Applications in Head and Neck Oncology. In W. Wu & H. Choudhry (Eds.), Next Generation Sequencing in Cancer Research, Volume 2: From Basepairs to Bedsides (pp. 401-422). Cham: Springer International Publishing.
2. Fay, M., Bell, C.Dowson, N. Puttick, S. & **Rose, S.** (2015) Imaging of brain tumours. In Dr. Terry Lichtor (Eds.), Molecular considerations and evolving surgical management issues in the treatment of patients with a brain tumor (pp. 235-276). Rijeka, Croatia: InTech Europe.
3. **Forlini, C., Partridge, B.Lucke, J**. & Racine, E. (2015) Popular media and bioethics scholarship: sharing responsibility for portrayals of cognitive enhancement with prescription medication. In Jens Clausen, Neil Levy (Eds.), Handbook of neuroethics (pp. 1473-1486). Dordrecht , Netherlands: Springer.
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APPENDIX 3

Awards

NAME	AWARD
Associate Professor James Scott	Best Clinical, Education or Health Services Oral Presentation 24th Annual RBWH Health Care Symposium.
Professor David Paterson	2015 Thomson Reuters Highly Cited Researcher
Professor David Paterson	Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences Research Excellence Award
Dr Peter Simpson	Fellow of Faculty of Science of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia
Professor Sunil Lakhani	Distinguished Pathologist, awarded by the International Academy of Pathology (Australasian Division)
Dr Minyon Avent	Advanced Practice Pharmacist awarded by Australian Pharmacy Council
Professor Murray Mitchell	Fellow ad eundem of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
Professor Pamela McCoombe	Australian and New Zealand Association of Neurologists (ANZAN) medal

Student Awards

NAME	AWARD
Mrs Betoul Baz	Graduate School International Travel Award
Mr Matthew Roberts	UQ 3 Minute Thesis Runner-Up 2015
Mr Matthew Roberts	CAI RHD Publication 2015 Round 1 Winner
Mr Matthew Roberts	UQCCR representative for the Selection for Global Young Scientists Summit (GYSS), Singapore, 2016
Mr Alexander Wailan	Travel Award for the 25th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Copenhagen, Denmark
Mr Alexander Wailan	UQCCR Publication of the Month Award (September)

APPENDIX 4

Conference Presentations

INVITED SPEAKERS		
Dr Minyon Avent	Invited Speaker:	"Antimicrobial Stewardship in Primary Care", Queensland Forum on Antimicrobial Resistance, Brisbane, Australia (November)
Professor Sunil Lakhani	Invited Speaker:	"Tumour heterogeneity in primary and metastatic breast cancer: impact on diagnostic pathology", The 9th Asia Pacific International Academy of Pathology (IAP) Congress, Brisbane, Australia (June)
		"Heterogeneity in primary and metastatic disease", Tenth Scientific Meeting of the Australasian Society for Breast Disease, The Australasian Society for Breast Disease, Brisbane, Australia (September)
	Keynote Speaker:	General Breast Imaging Meeting, Gold Coast, Australia (July)
		"New and emerging biomarkers in breast cancer", The United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology (USCAP) Annual Meeting, Boston, MA USA (March)
Dr Amy McCart Reed	Invited Speaker:	"BROCADE: A national infrastructure for the development of tissue resources in metastatic disease", Queensland Cooperative Oncology Group - Breast Cancer, Cancer Council Queensland, Brisbane, Australia (October)
		"An epithelial to mesenchymal transition program does not usually drive the phenotype of invasive lobular carcinomas", Queensland EMT Symposium, Translational Research Institute, Brisbane, Australia (October)
		"BROCADE: A national infrastructure for the development of tissue resources in metastatic disease", Brisbane Breast Cancer Meeting, Translational Research Institute, Brisbane, Australia (November)
		"BROCADE: A national infrastructure for the development of tissue resources in metastatic disease", Brisbane Cancer Conference, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Brisbane, Australia (December)
Dr Jodi Saunus	Invited Speaker:	"Targeting HER2 and HER3 for treatment of brain metastases", Annual scientific meeting - Cooperative Trials Group for Neuro-Oncology , Brisbane, Australia (October)
Dr Peter Simpson	Invited Speaker:	"Application of multiomics", Brisbane Cancer Conference, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Brisbane, Australia (December)
Dr Simon Finnigan	Invited Speaker:	"Defining abnormal slow EEG activity in acute ischaemic stroke", Royal Brisbane Women's Hospital Neurology Research Centre meeting, Brisbane, Australia (April)
Dr Hanna Sidjabat	Invited Speaker:	"Enterobacteriaceae: intestinal bacteria and horizontal gene transfer", Society for Microbial Ecology and Diseases, Verona, Italy (October)
Dr Jacki Liddle	Invited Speaker:	"Smartphone-based remote monitoring system for Parkinson's disease, Royal Brisbane Women's Hospital Healthcare Symposium, Brisbane, Australia (October)
Professor Peter Silburn	Keynote Speaker:	"Surfing Brain Waves in Disorders of Movement", Sensorimotor Control Meeting 2015,, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia (February)
	Invited Speaker:	"PPN stimulation for freezing and falling patients", British Neuroscience Association 50th Festival of Neuroscience, Edinburgh International Conference Centre, Edinburgh, Scotland (April)
		"Pedunculopontine nucleus (PPN) DBS: on the wane or on the way?", The First International Taiwanese Congress of Neurology and 2015 Annual Meeting of Taiwan Neurological Society, Taipei, Taiwan (May)
		International Deep Brain Stimulation Workshop, First World Congress on Tourette Syndrome and Tic Disorders, London, United Kingdom (June)
Dr Hari Subramanian	Invited Speaker:	"Neuromodulation of the midbrain periaqueductal gray: Opportunities and Challenges", Asia-Pacific Summer School on Bio-inspired Systems and Prosthetic Devices, National Dong Hwa University, Taipei, Taiwan (August)
		"Deep Brain Stimulation for psychiatric syndromes: Neuronal Mechanisms in the ACC and the PAG", Annual Congress of the Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, Brisbane, Australia (May)
Dr Christina Atay (née Knuepffer)	Invited Speaker:	"Remote patient monitoring via smartphones", Eskandar Laboratory for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, USA (November)
		"Discursis – a computational discourse analysis tool", Eskandar Laboratory for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, USA (November)
Professor Helen Chenery	Keynote Speaker:	"Evaluating communication in PD post-DBS using smartphone and remote sensor technologies", Third International Symposium on Basal Ganglia Speech Disorders and Deep Brain Stimulation, Institute of Neurology, University College, London, United Kingdom (March)
		"Computerised analysis of conversational trouble and repair in people with dementia and their carers", Third International Conference on Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia, Toronto, Canada (August)
Dr Ella Trembizki	Invited Speaker:	"Molecular approaches to enhance testing for Neisseria gonorrhoeae antimicrobial resistance", National reference laboratory symposium, Sydney, Australia (July)

INVITED SPEAKERS

Associate Professor David Whiley	Invited Speaker:	"Molecular approaches to enhance testing for Neisseria gonorrhoeae antimicrobial resistance", National reference laboratory symposium, Sydney, Australia (July)
		"Rapid Assay Development for Novel Infections", Viruses in May Meeting Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA), Katoomba, NSW (May)
		"Real–time PCR detection of N. gonorrhoeae resistance: where are we now?", 2015 World STI & HIV Congress, Brisbane, Australia (September)
		"Innovation in diagnostic methods for antimicrobial resistance of Neisseria gonorrhoea; findings from the GRAND project", Northern Territory Department of Health, Centre For Disease Control Conference 2015, Darwin, Australia (September)
		"Molecular surveillance of Neisseria gonorrhoeae" RCPA Pathology Update 2015, Melbourne, Australia (February)
		"So what's happening with gonorrhoea?" Australian Institute of Medical Scientist Tropical Division Scientific Meeting, Townsville, Australia (June)
Dr Patrick Harris	Invited Speaker:	"Clinical management of bloodstream infections caused by ESBL-producers", Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy, San Diego, USA (September)
Professor Paul Colditz	Invited Speaker	"Brain development in the NICU", Gold Coast University Hospital Research Seminar Series, Gold Coast, Australia (June)
		"Subgaleal haemorrhage: Don't treat it lightly", New South Wales Pregnancy and Newborn Services Network, NeoPad Conference, Sydney, Australia (September)
		"Parenting preterm infants: how to optimise outcomes", New South Wales Pregnancy and Newborn Services Network, NeoPad Conference, Sydney, Australia (September)
		"Subgaleal haemorrhage", Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Brisbane, Australia (November)
Associate Professor James Scott	Invited Speaker:	"Barriers and Options in the Treatment of Schizophrenia in Australia", World Psychiatric Association International Congress, Taipei, Taiwan (November)
	Invited Plenary Speaker:	"Psychotic like experiences in the general community", Australasian Schizophrenia Research Conference, Melbourne, Australia (October)
	Keynote Speaker:	"Causes and Care of Anxiety in Adolescents", Association of Counsellors of Catholic Secondary Schools of Queensland (ACCSSQ) Annual Conference, Brisbane, Australia (June)
		"Preventing mental illness in Australian Children and Youth", Australasian Society for Mental Health Research, Brisbane, Australia (December)
		"Bullying in Australia: Prevention and Intervention", Victorian State Branch Conference of the Royal Australian and New Zealand Colleage of Psychiatrists, Lorne, Victoria, Australia (October)
		"Causes and Care of Anxiety in Adolescents", Association of Counsellors of Catholic Secondary Schools of Queensland Annual Conference, Brisbane, Australia (June)
		"From consulting rooms to global research: Clinical psychiatrists who research", Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists 2015 Congress, Brisbane Australia (May)
Professor Murray Mitchell	Invited workshop	"Transplacental transfer of endocrine disruptors", International Federation of Placenta Association: Xenobiotics and endocrine disruptors and pregnancy-workshop 7, Brisbane, Australia (need month)
	Invited Speaker:	"Epigenetics, exosomes and dairy cow fertility", Univeristy of Queensland Veterinary School seminar series, Gatton, Queensland (August)
		"Epigenetics, exosomes and dairy cow fertility and the transition cow", University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, USA (July)
		"Exosomal analyses: brief overview and recent progress", MBIE Pillars Programme International Workshop, DairyNZ, Hamilton, New Zealand, (October)
		"Use of exosomes to determine 'at risk' transition cows", Transition Cow International Workshop, DairyNZ, Hamilton, New Zealand (October)
		"Exosomes and dairy cow fertility: lessons from medical research", DairyNZ Forum, Hamilton, New Zealand (March)
		"Application of epigenetics in reproductive management: now and the future", DMF Reproduction Steering Group Forum, Dairy Australia, Melbourne Australia (March)

INVITED SPEAKERS

Professor David Paterson	Invited Speaker:	"Is this the end of the antibiotic era?" Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia (October)
		"Gram-negative problem: Polymyxins in an age of new antibiotics", 2nd international Conference on Polymyxins, San Diego, California, USA (September)
		"The end of the anitibiotic era" University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, USA (September)
		"The escalating arms race between superbugs and antibiotics: implications for patients and public health." Queensland Forum on Antimicrobial Resistance, RBWH Education Centre, Brisbane, Australia (November)
Associate Professor Judith Greer	Invited Speaker:	"Autoantibodies and their potential roles in diseases of the nervous system", Asia-Pacific School of Neuroimmunology, Tokyo, Japan (August)
Professor Greg Rice	Invited Speaker:	"Exosomal biomarker of pregnancy", The 47th International Congress of Pathophysiology of Pregnancy, Tbilisi, Georgia (November)
	Guest Lecturer	"Research Quality and Translation (Eight lectures), University of the Andes, Santiago, Chile (June)
Professor Nicholas Fisk	Guest Lecturer	"Sesquizygosis as a unique form of twinning: non-invasive antenatal diagnosis & frequency determination in a large WGS twin cohort", International Fetal Medicine and Surgery Society Annual Scientific Meeting, Greece (June)

APPENDIX 5

Seminars held at UQCCR

DATE	NAME OF SPEAKER	TITLE OF TALK
19/02/2015	Associate Professor Adrian Barnett	Peering inside the black box of research funding
26/02/2015	Professor David Paterson and Mr Harvey Kramer	How to perform bad research
23/04/2015	Dr Steven Lane	Improving patient outcomes by targeting leukaemia stem cells
26/03/2015	Dr Genevieve Healey	Reducing sitting in the office workplace: Why? What works?
30/04/2015	Ms Jamie Kutasovic	Breast Cancer metastasis to gynaecological organs impacting young women diagnosed with a luminal tumour subtype
30/04/2015	Ms Ashwini Raghavendra	Identification of novel prognostic biomarkers in triple negative and basal-like breast cancers
21/05/2015	Professor Hayden Homer	Molecular regulation of oocyte quality
28/05/2015	Dr Hari Subramanian	The neural basis of sound and speech
11/06/2015	Dr Helen Barrett	Treating maternal lipids in complicated pregnancy
18/06/2015	Dr Hari Subramanian	Neuromodulation of brainstem circuits for autonomic control – A therapeutic opportunity
25/06/2015	Dr Jye Smith	HIRF, Nuclear medicine and radiation
16/07/2015	Dr Olivier Becherel	Studying rare neurological disorders: Ataxia Oculomotor Apraxia type 2(A0A2) and the role of senataxin in neurodegeneration
23/07/2015	Dr Marloes Dekker	Probiotics in Pregnancy – trial (s) and tribulations
30/07/2015	Dr Annika Montag	Alcohol-exposed pregnancy research: Building an Australia-USA collaboration
20/08/2015	Dr Tracey Bjorkman	Neonatal seizures – How should we be treating them?
27/08/2015	Dr Barbara Lingwood and Dr Yvonne Eiby	Cardiovascular function in preterm piglets: Effects of Dopamine and Dobutamine and reduced preload
03/09/2015	Dr Carlos Salomon	Exosomal signalling in complications of pregnancy and ovarian cancer progression
17/09/2015	Associate Professor Ken Hermann	Theranostics- recent advances and new challanges
24/09/2015	Dr Jatin Patel	Vascular stem cells and their role in treating ischemic disease
08/10/2015	Professor Mark Goodman	Bench to bedside translation of Fluciclovine for imaging cancer
15/10/2015	Dr Cynthia Forlini	Whose mind is it, anyway? Balancing the individual responsibilities & collective benefits of healthy cognitive ageing
22/10/2015	Associate Professor James Scott	Child and adolescent mental health and early psychosis- Prevention and treatment options
10/11/2015	Professor Vicki Clifton	Queensland families cohort
19/11/2015	Dr Patrick Harris	Tackling Gram-negative 'Superbugs' – Climbing the north face of the evidence pyramid
03/12/2015	Mr Hosam Zowawi	War on superbugs-Fighting the known unknown through multidisciplinary approach
10/12/2015	Dr Hassendrini Peiris	Regulation and actions of myostatin in the human placenta

APPENDIX 6

Research Higher Degree Students

Completions in 2015

UQCCR supervisors are shown in bold.

STUDENT	DEGREE	SUPERVISOR	PROJECT TITLE
Gildea, Jan	PhD	**Professor P Hodges**, Dr J Hides	Physiology and pathophysiology of low back pain in ballet dancers
Hemsley, Gayle	PhD	**Professor B Dodd**, Dr A Holm	Language Difference and Disorder in Early Sequential Bilingual Children
Jessri, Maryam	PhD	**Associate Professor C Farah, Dr A Dalley**	DNA damage repair pathways in oral mucosal lesions
Kamolvit, Witchuda	PhD	**Professor D Paterson, Dr H Sidjabat**	Molecular Epidemiology and Insights into the Genomes of Acinetobacter calcoaceticus-Acinetobacter baumannii complex
Legrand, Julien	PhD	**Associate Professor K Khosrohtehrani, Professor N Fisk**, Dr A Brooks	Mesenchymal-Epidermal interactions in skin wound regeneration
Cloake, Nancy	PhD	**Associate Professor J Greer**, Professor M Pender	Amino acid variants of myelin proteolipid protein: potential inducers of multiple sclerosis or potential means to a cure?
Murphy, Jenifer	PhD	**Professor G Byrne**, Professor N Pachana	Chronic and treatment-resistant depression
Peiris, Hassendrini	PhD	**Professor M Mitchell**	Myostatin in the human placenta: expression and potential functions
Rogers, Benjamin	PhD	**Professor D Paterson, Professor T Walsh, Dr H Sidjabat**	Antimicrobial Resistant Escherichia coli. Clinical, Epidemiological and Molecular Characteristics in Our Region
Momeny, Majid	PhD	**Professor S Lakhani, Professor G Rice, Dr J Saunus**, Dr G Chenevix-Trench	Heregulin/HER3 signalling increases invasive behaviour of HER2-positive breast cancer cells
Odabaee, Maryam	PhD	**Professor P Colditz, Dr B Boashash,** Dr Sampsa Vanhatalo, **Dr Ghasem Azemi**	Neonatal EEG source localization
Iyer, Kartik	PhD	Professor M Breakspear, Dr Sampsa Vanhatalo, **Dr S Finnigan**	Novel methods for predicting clinical outcome in neonates from electroencephalography recordings
Tseng, Hsu-Wen	PhD	Dr G Thomas, **Dr A Pettit**, Professor M Brown	Inflammation-driven bone formation in ankylosing spondylitis: Characterisation of the proteoglycan-induced spondylitis mouse model
Herd, Michael	PhD	Dr K Whittingham, Professor R Boyd, **Professor P Colditz**, Professor M Sanders	A randomised controlled trial to determine the efficacy of Baby Triple P with parents of very preterm infants on regulatory difficulties, child behaviour and parenting style
Mcrae, Prudence	MPhil	Dr A Mudge, **Professor P Walker**, Dr N Peel	Understanding the occurrence of geriatric syndromes in older surgical patients
Yeo, Jie Abrey	PhD	**Professor M Lavin, Dr O Becherel, Dr S Kozlov**	Senataxin in DNA repair and Meiotic Silencing
Evans, Tracey	PhD	Dr K Whittingham, Professor R Boyd, **Professor P Colditz**, Professor M Sanders	Preventing Relationship Difficulties Between a Mother and her Very Preterm Infant: Implementation and Evaluation of Baby Triple P for Parents of a Very Preterm Infant
Kerbler, Georg Martin Johannes	PhD	Associate Professor E Coulson, **Associate Professor S Rose**	Imaging basal forebrain dysfunction in Alzheimer's disease
Brandenburg, Caitlin	PhD	Professor L Worrall, **Professor D Copland, Dr A Rodriguez**	Performance-based measurement of participation for people with aphasia: Using an iPhone application to measure talking time in everyday life
Vu, An	Mphil	**Associate Professor C Farah, Dr M Matias**	Narrow Band Imaging in the identification and monitoring of oral potentially malignant diseases and oral cancer
Sardesai, Varda	Mphil	**Dr R Pelekanos, Professor N Fisk**	Isolation, expansion and validation of fetal-derived mesenchymal stem/ stromal cells from the placenta
Dutta, Suchismita	MPhil	**Dr C Salomon, Professor G Rice, Professor M Mitchell**	First trimester plasma-derived exosomal proteins: Putative biomarker for early detection of pathological pregnancies
Byrom, Lisa	Mphil	**Associate Professor K Khosrohtehrani**, Professor A Green	Influence of pregnancy on prognosis of melanoma
John, Keziah	Mphil	**Associate Professor C Farah, Mr A Dalley**	Surgical margins in oral cancer: The translational potential of Narrow Band Imaging and VELscope¿ based on an analysis of molecular changes in malignant and premalignant tissues
Webster, John	Mphil	**Associate Professor C Farah, Dr M Matias**	Opportunities for achieving early diagnosis of oral cancer within the medical profession in Australia.

Enrolments in 2015

UQCCR supervisors are shown in bold.

STUDENT	DEGREE	SUPERVISORS	PROJECT TITLE	START DATE
Beasley, Shannon	PhD	**Associate Professor J Greer, Professor D Pow**	Development of a simple in vitro white matter model to investigate differential expression of cell markers on glial cells and their potential as targets in multiple sclerosis	01.07.2015
Jardine, Luke	PhD	**Professor P Colditz**, Dr M Davies	Development of early predictors of long term neurodevelopmental outcome for preterm infants	13.07.2015
Yang, Ji Hyun Julia	PhD	Professor G Byrne, **Dr N Dissanayaka, Professor D Copland**	Markers and mechanisms of mild cognitive impairment MCI in Parkinson's disease PD	05.01.2015
Dixit, Aakanksha	PhD	**Associate Professor J Greer**, Dr Sheila Donnelly	Triple knockout mice with human immune systems: a novel method for testing therapeutic agents involved in MS	05.01.2015
Ioannides, Zara	PhD	**Professor P McCombe, Dr F Steyn, Dr S Ngo, Associate Professor R Henderson**	Energy metabolism and storage in motor neuron disease	14.01.2015
Robinson, Helen	PhD	**Dr M Dekker, Professor L Callaway, Dr H Barrett**	Assessing the effect of carbohydrate intake in overweight and obese pregnant women and in women with gestational diabetes mellitus	13.01.2015
Meddick, Thy Anh	PhD	Professor J Najman, **Associate Professor J Scott**	Exploring family mental health as predictors of children's education and vocational outcomes across the lifespan	05.01.2015
Bell, Alastair	Mphil	**Professor D Paterson**, Professor A Clements, Dr L Yakob, Dr R Magalhaes	A qualitative and quantitative risk assessment of the reintroduction of the epidemic strains of Clostridium difficile into Australia	01.01.2015
Kim, Ji Yeon	PhD	**Professor P Colditz,** Professor J Stone	Understanding how remote application of near infrared light induces neuroprotection	01.04.2015
Koh, Yong Qin	PhD	**Professor M Mitchell, Professor G Rice, Dr C Salomon**	Fertility in dairy cows	02.04.2015
Romaniuk, Madeline Nora	Mphil	**Dr S Finnigan**	Investigating the neurobiological impact of posttraumatic stress disorder through MRI and diffusion MRI in a sample of Vietnam veterans	30.01.2015
Goasdoue, Kate	PhD	**Dr T Bjorkman**	A novel therapy for neonatal seizures	01.07.2015
Owusu Adjah, Ebenezer Senyo Yao	PhD	Dr S P, Dr K Klein, **Professor G Rice**	Evaluation of the obesity paradox in diabetes:a longitudinal case control study	07.04.2015
Rees, Glynn Wiliam	Mphil	**Dr J Yan, Associate Professor J Greer**, Dr G Webster	To examine the activation of NF-xB in PBMC isolated from patients with progressive Multiple Sclerosis before and during long-term treatment with MIS416	29.07.2015
Suetani, Shuichi	PhD	Professor J McGrath, **Associate Professor J Scott**	Physical activity and people with psychosis	28.07.2015
O'Byrne, Leane	PhD	Dr A Hill, **Dr A Rodriguez**	Technology enabled self management of aphasia: when, how and what works	14.01.2015
Alexis, Josue	Mphil	**Associate Professor K Khosrotehrani,** Associate Professor N Saunders	To understand differences between basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma subtypes at the genomic, transcriptomic and proteomic level	01.04.2015
Sherry, Timothy	PhD	**Professor P Colditz**	Identification of brain events via electroencephalogram eeg through blind source seperation	26.10.2015
Chalachew, Alemayehu	PhD	Professor G Mitchell, **Dr J Nikles**	Role of n-of-1 studies in a developing country: Ethiopian scenario	01.07.2015
Gillman, Ashley Gavin	PhD	**Professor S Rose,** Dr N Dawson, Dr D RivestHeult, Dr J Smith	Developing novel algorithms to correct non- rigid motion during Position Emission Tomography (PET) imaging to improve diagnostic accuracy	01.10.2015
Morong, James Jacob	Mphil	**Professor P Colditz**	A comparative study of in-hospital maternal mortality ratio (MMR) between the United States of America and Australia	08.10.2015

Ongoing Students

UQCCR supervisors are shown in bold.

STUDENT	DEGREE	SUPERVISOR	PROJECT TITLE
Francis, Glenn	PhD	**Associate Professor C Farah**, Dr G Beadle	Protein expression and molecular profiling using tissue microarrays to predict lymph node status in breast cancer
McCarthy, Kate	PhD	**Professor D Paterson**, Dr T Kidd	Pseudomonas aeruginosa bloodstream infections: Clinical and molecular epidemiology, antibiotic resistance mechanisms, treatment and outcome
Miller, Stephanie	PhD	**Dr T Bjorkman**, Associate Professor P Noakes	Examining the maturation of the GABA system in the neonatal brain and its role in hypoxic-ischaemic brain injury
Rawlings, Alicia	PhD	**Associate Professor D Copland**, Associate Professor K McMahon	The modulation of adult new word learning by dopamine
Roxbury, Tracy	PhD	**Associate Professor D Copland**, Associate Professor K McMahon	Neurophysiological markers of language recovery in acute stroke.
Stewart, Romal	PhD	**Professor M Lavin, Dr S Kozlov**	A cellular model to investigate the role of ATM in the nervous system
Vaska, Vikram	PhD	**Professor D Paterson**, Associate Professor G Nimmo	Clinical, health economic, epidemiologic and molecular epidemiologic and diagnostic aspects of staphylococcus aureus infections in Queensland.
Williams, Julian	PhD	Professor J Lipman, **Professor D Paterson**	The sepsis registry: a prospective database to characterise and facilitate improved outcome for admitted patients with community acquired infection
Zowawi, Hosam	PhD	**Professor D Paterson**, **Dr H Sidjabat**	The prevalence of metallo-beta-lactamse producing enterobacteriaceae, P.areuginosa, Acinetobacter spp in tertiary and academic healthcare centres in Saudi Arabia
Sheikh, Nabeel	PhD	**Dr S Finnigan**, Principal Dr A Wong, Dr S Read	Role of quantitative EEG in diagnosis, prognostication and management of acute stroke
Sam, Sonia	PhD	**Dr B Lingwood, Professor P Colditz**	Cardiovascular factors associated with poor outcome in preterm infants
Sahama, Ishani	PhD	**Associate Professor S Rose, Professor M Lavin**	Investigating connectivity and neuroinflammation within corticomotor networks in ataxia-teleangiectasia: Improving our understanding of the clinical phenotype
Thomas, Georgia	PhD	**Associate Professor D Copland**, Associate Professor K McMohan, Ms E Finch	Presurgical mapping of language in patients with brain tumours.
Stockill (Dignam), Jade	PhD	**Associate Professor D Copland, Dr A Rodriguez**	Investigating the effect of intensity of aphasia therapy on language outcomes in people with aphasia.
Raghavendra, Ashwini	PhD	**Professor S Lakhani,** Dr G Chenevix-Trench, **Dr J Saunus, Dr P Simpson**	Studying mammary epithelial lineage differentiation and breast cancer predisposition using induciable pluripotent stem cell technology
Kutasovic, Jamie Rose	PhD	**Dr P Simpson, Professor S Lakhani, Dr A Reed,** Dr G Chenevix- Trench	Investigating the role of E-cadherin in breast cancer development and progression to metastasis
Lazarus, Syndia	PhD	**Professor E Duncan, Dr A Pettit, Dr A Zankl**, Professor M Brown	Gene mapping in skeletal dysplasias
Yeates, Sarah	PhD	Associate Professor J Leach, **Professor W Hall**	Addiction neuroscience meets alcohol policy: emergent meaning in discoursed about alcohol, the brain and behaviour and their implications for ethical communication and evidence based policy for harm reduction
Scheck, Simon	PhD	**Associate Professor S Rose**, Professor R Boyd	Motor, Sensory and visual brain networks in children with unilateral Cerebral Palsy
Wailan, Alexander	PhD	**Dr H Sidjabat, Professor D Paterson**	The Genetic Analysis of NDM harbouring plasmids in Gram-negative bacteria and an insight into their mechanism of acquisition and spread
Morphett, Kylie	PhD	**Professor W Hall, Dr A Carter, Dr C Gartner**	A disease of the brain: How do neurobiological explanations of addiction influence the attitudes and behaviours of smokers?
Layeghy, Siamak	PhD	**Professor P Colditz, Professor B Boashash, Dr G Azemi**	Fetal movement detection and classifcation
Schleiger, Emma	PhD	**Dr S Finnigan,** Dr A Wong, Dr S Read	Ameliorating functional deficits in neurological conditions via monitoring and targeting brain electrophysiological signals
Alruwaili, Ashwag	PhD	**Professor P McCombe**	The use of magnetic resonance imagine (MRI) to measure the rate of loss of upper motor neurons in amoytrophic sclerosis
Airey, Caroline	PhD	**Professor P McCombe, Dr R Henderson**	The CMAP scan in Motor Neuron Disease and Peripheral Neuropathy as a marker of early disease and disease progression
Quek, Hazel	PhD	**Dr T Roberts, Professor M Lavin,** Dr J Hancock,	Characterisation of novel pathways involved in the cellular responses to cytosolic DNA
George, Joanne	PhD	Professor R Boyd, **Professor P Colditz, Associate Professor S Rose**	Prediction of motor outcomes based on early brain structure

STUDENT	DEGREE	SUPERVISOR	PROJECT TITLE
Dingwall, Steven	PhD	**Professor M Lavin**, Dr G Hill, Dr T Roberts, Professor E Wolvetang	Generation of induced pluripotent stem cells from ataxia-telangiectasia patients
Baz, Betoul	PhD	**Associate Professor K Khosrohtehrani, Professor G Rice, Dr J Patel**	Sequencing based identification of skeletal dysplasia genes
Anchong, Naomi	PhD	**Professor L Callaway, Professor E Duncan**, Professor H McIntyre	Insulin requirements in pregnant women with type 1 diabetes mellitus during late pregnancy and the peripartum period
Northwood, Korinne	PhD	Professor M Brown, **Professor S Lakhani**	Investigation of genetic and epigenetic regulation of non-coding RNAs in metastatic breast cancer
Erskine, Holly	PhD	Associate Professor J Scott, Professor H Whiteford	The epidemiology of conduct disorder and implications for interventions
Mills, Natalie	PhD	Professor N Wray, Dr Margie Wright, **Associate Professor J Scott,** Professor G Byrne, Professor N Martin	The role of cytokines in depression and cognition in adolescents
Babbitt, Edna	PhD	Professor L Worrall, Professor L Cherney, **Associate Professor D Copland**	Investigations into Intensive Comprehensive Aphasia Programs (ICAPs)
Caesar, Rebecca	PhD	Professor R Boyd, **Professor P Colditz**	Early predictors for neurodevelopmental outcome and prioritisation of service delivery for at risk premature infants
Matusiak, Kristine	Mphil	**Professor L Callaway, Dr M Dekker**	Periconception weight loss: what are the effects on the HPA axis in the infant?
Rowe, Casey	PhD	**Associate Professor K Khosrohtehrani**, Dr Hayward	Prognostic factors in early stage invasive melanoma
Thomas, Hannah	PhD	**Associate Professor J Scott,** Associate Professor J Connor	Beyond the classroom and into the cyber world, next generation research into adolescent bullying
Awal, Abdul	PhD	**Professor P Colditz, Professor B Boashash**	Classification and localization of neonatal EEG abnormalities using time-frequency image processing based neural network and support vector machine
Devine, Mathhew	Mphil	**Dr R Henderson, Professor P McCombe**	Limb Dominance and cortical features of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)
Pagnozzi, Alex	PhD	**Professor S Rose,** Professor A Bradley, Dr N Dawson	Automatic construction of normal and abnormal tissue models from mined datasets for delineation of abnormalities
Wall, Kylie Janine	PhD	**Associate Professor D Copland,** Dr T Cumming	Prognostic factors of fMRI in recovery of cognition and language post-stroke
McKirdy, Natalie Charnise	PhD	**Dr N Barnett,** Dr D Harkin, Professor T Chirila	Characterisation of inflammatory pathways associated with preterm birth
Jensen, Charmaine	PhD	**Professor W Hall, Dr B Partridge, Professor J Lucke**	Non-medical use of prescription stimulants by Australian University students: Attitudes, prevalence of use and motivation.
Isaacs, Megan	PhD	**Professor D Copland**, Dr A Angwin, Associate Professor K McMohan	Control of language production and it's neural substrates
Lai, Melissa	PhD	**Professor P Colditz, Dr S Finnigan,** Dr J Fripp	Environmental manipulation of the very preterm infant: Can dense array EEG detect developmental differences at term equivalent age
Liu, Chao	PhD	Professor M Ragan,Dr K Cao, **Dr P Simpson,** Professor K Khanna	A systems biology approach to defining therapeutic targets in breast cancer.
Bell, Christopher	PhD	**Professor S Rose**, Professor A Bradley, Dr N Dawson	Molecular imaging: new technologies for patient care
Odenthal, Cara	MPhil	Professor ACoulthard, **Professor L Callaway, Associate Professor S Rose**	Can MRI at 3 and 5 years after first demyelinating event detect reduction in brain volume in patients who progress to clinically definite MS compared to those who do not?
Reid, Lee Bremmer	PhD	**Associate Professor S Rose,** Professor R Boyd, Associate Professor R Cunnington	Measuring neuroplasticity in children with acquired brain injury using diffusion and functional MRI
Roberts, Matthew	PhD	**Professor F Gardiner**, Dr H Schirra	Putative biomarkers for early detection of Prostate Cancer
Forbes, Elizabeth	MPHil	**Dr B Lingwood**	Changes in cardiac structure and biochemistry during transition to extra uterine life in preterm and term piglets
Al-Theyab, Nada	PhD	**Dr B Lingwood, Professor P Colditz, Associate Professor T Donovan**	Determination of Vitamin D status and intake of adolescent school girls in central region, Saudi Arabia
Van Eps, Julie	Mphil	**Professor G Rice, Professor S Illanes, Professor M Mitchell,** Professor M Choolani	The role of metabolic dysregulation in cancer
Harris, Patrick	PhD	**Professor D Paterson**	Defining an evidence based approach for the optimal management of Gram-negative infections in the era of emerging antimicrobial resistance
Gomez Arango, Luisa	PhD	**Professor L Callaway, Dr M Dekker**	The gut microbiome in pregnancy in response to probiotics
Fay, Michael	PhD	**Associate Professor S Rose**, Professor S Crozier	Incorporating advanced imaging into the treatment of brain tumours
Perceval, Garon	PhD	**Associate Professor M Meinzer, Associate Professor D Copland**	Long term effects of non invasive electrical brain stimulation on cognition and neuroplasticity in healthy ageing and mild cognitive impairment

STUDENT	DEGREE	SUPERVISOR	PROJECT TITLE
Kong, Annice	PhD	**Professor P Colditz**	The relationship between brain structure assessed using diffusion MRI and function assessed using dense array EEG of very preterm infants and the ability to predict neurodevelopmental outcomes
Kobayashi, Miharu	PhD	**Dr C Salomon, Professor G Rice, Professor M Mitchell**	Host - tumour cell interactions in the progression of ovarian cancer
Fielder, Matthew	Mphil/ MBBS	**Dr T Bjorkman, Professor P Colditz**	Deep brain stimulation in animal models
Lal, Samir	Mphil	**Dr P Simpson, Professor S Lakhani, Dr A McCart Reed**	Integrative genomic analysis of lobular breast carcinomas
Mosley, Philip	PhD	Professor M Breakspear, Professor W Hall, **Dr A Carter**	Impulsivity and caregiver burden after deep brain stimulation for Parkinson's disease
Lee, James	PhD	**Associate Professor K Khosrohtehrani,** Dr Rmazzeiri	Role of macrophages in skin cancer initiation after ultraviolet radiation
Xu, Zhouwei	PhD	**Professor P McCombe, Dr R Henderson**	Biomarkers and predictors of survival in Motor Neurone Disease
Gbadeyan, Oyteunde	PhD	**Associate Professor M Meinzer**, Associate Professor K McMohan	Neural mechanisms underlying language and motor facilitation by conventional and high-definition transcranial direct current stimulation
Moonshi, Shehzahdi Shebbrin	PhD	Professor A Whittaker, **Professor N Fisk, Associate Professor S Rose**	Innovative approaches to tracking of stem cells in models of glioma
Ramsay, Kay Annette	PhD	Professor S Bell, **Associate Professor D Whiley**, Dr T Kidd, Dr D Reid	Defining Pseudomonas aeruginosa (Pa) strategies in early cystic fibrosis (CF) lung infection
Ye, Suifang	PhD	Associate Professor **D Whiley,** Associate Professor C Kirkwood, Professor K Grimwood, Dr S Lambert	Rotavirus detection and typing in the rotavirus vaccine era

APPENDIX 7

Clinical Trials

UQCCR is actively involved in investigator driven clinical research. These are the clinical trials we hosted:

CLINICAL TRIAL	CHIEF INVESTIGATOR/S
Early intervention centred on infant massage performed by the mother in preterm infants: effects on neurodevelopment at the clinical, electrophysiological and neuroradiological level.	Professor Paul Colditz, Dr Simon Finnigan, Associate Professor Stephen Rose, Dr Andrea Guzzetta, Dr M Giulia D'Acunto, Ms Naoni Ngenda, Ms Sonia Sam, Dr Koa Whittingham, Ms Janine Oostenbroek and Ms Penny Love
NEST: A study of the impact of treating electrographic seizures in term or near-term infants with neonatal encephalopathy.	Dr Rod Hunt, Professor Paul Colditz, Dr Terrie Inder, Dr Nadia Badawi, Dr Karen Simmer, Dr Helen Liley, Associate Professor David Osborn, Dr Jeanie Cheong, Professor Ian Wright
PPREMO: Prediction of preterm early motor and neurodevelopmental outcomes using advanced brain imaging and an early assessment toolbox.	Professor Roslyn Boyd, Professor Paul Colditz, Ms Joanne George, Associate Professor Stephen Rose
Prem Triple P Parenting Study: Enhanced parenting capacity to improve developmental outcomes in preterm infants.	Professor Paul Colditz, Professor Matthew Sanders, Professor Roslyn Boyd, Professor Margo Pritchard, Dr Peter Gray, Dr Michael O'Callaghan, Professor Virginia Slaughter, Dr Koa Whittingham
PREBO: Prediction of preterm neurodevelopmental outcomes using advanced brain imaging and dense array EEG.	Professor Paul Colditz, Professor Roslyn Boyd, Dr Atul Malhotra, Associate Professor Stephen Rose, Professor Boaulem Boashash, Professor Michael Ditchfield, Associate Professor Michael Fahey, Dr Kristen Pannek, Dr Randal Moldrich
Randomised Study of Robotic and Open Prostatectomy": The purpose of this study is to evaluate these procedures in terms of clinical and oncological parameters, psychosocial aspects and costs to both individuals and the health system.	Professor Robert 'Frank' Gardiner
A Double Blind, Placebo–controlled study to evaluate New or Worsening Lens Opacifications in subjects with non-metastatic Cancer Receiving Demosumab for bone loss due to Androgen-Deprivation Therapy".	Dr Geoff Coughlin, Dr John Yaxley
Prevail: "A Multinational Phase 3, Randomised, Double –Blind, Placebo- controlled efficacy and safety study of oral MDV3100 in Chemotherapy"- Naive Patients with Progressive Metastatic Prostate Cancer who have failed Androgen Deprivation therapy.	Professor Robert 'Frank' Gardiner
Early Detection Study: Developing a non-invasive test for Prostate Cancer detection. Researchers have employed PCR, ELISA, MALDI-TOF and metabonomic spectroscopy to discriminate cancer from non-cancer.	Professor Robert 'Frank' Gardiner
A Randomised Controlled Trial of Metformin and Atorvastatin- with treatment commenced following prostatic biopsy and ceasing just before radical prostatectomy- to guide subsequent patient management.	Professor Robert 'Frank' Gardiner, Dr Geoff Coughlin, Dr John Yaxley, Dr Troy Gianduzzo
Janssen's Phase 3 Prostate Study HREC/15/QPAH/95 : JNJ-56021927 in combination with Abiraterone Acetate and Prednisone verses Abiraterone Acetate and Prednisone for patients with (mCRPC)	Professor Robert 'Frank' Gardiner
Protocol No X13-0387 & HREC/13/RPAH/558 – "ANZUP1304: A Randomise phase 3 trial of enzalutamide in first line androgen deprivation therapy for metastatic prostate cancer (ENZAMET)"	Professor Robert 'Frank' Gardiner
Brief Behavioural Counselling Intervention for Peripheral Artery Disease (BIP) This study is being done to evaluate the effectiveness of a brief behavioural counselling session delivered by a health worker to improve physical activity in patients with blocked leg arteries. The results of this study might help us understand if the presentation of physical activity recommendations to patients with blocked leg arteries can be improved.	Professor Jonathan Golledge, Dr Jason Jenkins Dr Danella Favot, Dr Nicholas Boyne Dr Allan Kruger, Dr Simon Quinn Dr Nicola Burton, Dr Sophie Rowbotham Ms Jessica Suna, Ms Roslyn Clapperton
Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) for Patients with Treatment-Resistant Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)-Identifying electrophysiological biomarkers. To evaluate the clinical effectiveness and safety of DBS therapy in a restricted sample of patients with treatment-resistant OCD. This research project will utilise a new device, which is identical to the implantable DBS electrodes currently utilised over the past 10 years for movement disorder but as well can be used as a passive recording device of brain electrical activity.	The Asia-Pacific Centre for Neuromodulation (APCN) /St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital Professor Peter Silburn, Associate Professor Terry Coyne, Professor Pankaj Sah, Professor Perminder Sachdev, Dr Adith Mohan, Dr Philip Mosley, Dr Rodney Marsh, Dr Mark Boschen, Ms Lisa McKeown
1. NET study (neuroendocrine Tumours) Cancer on the margins: A qualitative study of neuroendocrine Patients' experiences of living with rare tumours The purpose of this study is to get a clearer and comprehensive understanding of what it means to live with a relatively uncommon and slow-progressing cancer. This information will provide the necessary knowledge needed to provide support for patients with neuroendocrine tumours- improving their quality of life. The project will involve a one on one interview with research staff, during the interview the participants will be asked about their experience of living with neuroendocrine tumours, and their thoughts on relationships with health professionals, friends, family, co- workers.	Medical Oncology –Royal Brisbane Women's Hospital Associate Professor David Wyld Professor Alex Broom (University of New South Wales) Ms Helen McDade Dr Zarnie Lwin Dr Emma Kirby Ms Stefanie Plage Ms Annette Cubitt
2. Locally the RBWH Medical Oncology team The Changing Landscapes of Survivorship: A sociological study of life with cancer Surviving cancer is often not only about seeking cure but rather finding ways of living with it, presenting new and important challenges for individuals and their significant others. This project will examine the practice of 'cancer survivorship' through the lives of Australians currently living with, and receiving care for, cancer, systematically and chronologically document the range of experiences of cancer survivorship, across patient groups, illness contexts and from the perspectives of health professionals.	Medical Oncology – Royal Brisbane Women's Hospital Dr Zarnie Lwin Professor Alex Broom (University of New South Wales) Associate Professor David Wyld Dr Brett Hughes Dr Emma Kirby Professor Patsy Yates
Project Title: Probiotics as an adjuvant to antidepressant medication in the treatment of resistant depression with high a risk of relapse. Evidence suggests that probiotics may be helpful for hard to treat depression in addition to anti-depressant medication. This study will evaluate the effect of probiotics in tablet form along with normal antidepressant medication (SSRIs) prescribed by the participants GP utilising a variety of psychiatric and biological measures.	Dr Matthew Bambling, Professor Luis Vitetta, Associate Professor David Crompton, Ms Sophie Parham
"Dopaminergic modulation of adult new word learning: A functional imaging investigation". This study aims to investigate the role of the neurotransmitter dopamine in new word learning and language processing in adults. Levodopa, a dopamine precursor, is administered to healthy individuals prior to language learning sessions, in a double-blind, placebo-controlled study design. Neural correlates of new word learning modulated by dopamine are investigated using behavioural methods, functional MRI and event-related EEG. The Language Neuroscience Laboratory conducts studies that investigate language processing in healthy populations and treatment and recovery from language disorders. The targeted patient groups are stroke, Parkinson's disease, dementia, autism and brain injury patients. Techniques used include behavioural and psycholinguistic tasks, functional MRI and EEG. The team are looking at development and evaluation of new models of diagnosis and treatment for these patient groups.	Associate Professor David Copland, Ms Alicia Rawlings, Mr Jeffrey Mahoney, Dr Anna MacDonald, Associate Professor Katie McMahon and Professor Peter Silburn
"Learning and language processing in people with Parkinson's disease." This project investigates the neural basis for language deficits in Parkinson's disease using brain imaging (fMRI)	Associate Professor David Copland, Dr Nadeeka Dissanayaka, Mr Peter Bell, Professor Peter Silburn, Associate Professor Katie McMahon, Professor Helen Chenery, Dr Anthony Angwin
"Cognitive sequelae in Parkinson's disease: Identifying the neural substrates" This study aims to identify the neural substrates of cognitive-linguistic impairments in Parkinson's disease by utilizing EEG.	Dr Anthony Angwin, Associate Professor David Copland, Associate Professor Katie McMahon, Dr Nadeeka Dissanayaka, Professor Peter Silburn.
"Striatal dopamine function in human cognition: Insights from language, learning and reward in Parkinson's disease and pharmacological challenge." This study investigates the learning and language processing in Parkinson's disease patients who have had deep brain stimulation (DBS) functional neurosurgical treatment	Dr Anthony Angwin, Professor Peter Silburn, Professor David Copland, Dr Nadeeka Dissanayaka
"Improving diagnostic methods of anxiety and depression in Parkinson's disease." This study aims to define the phenotype of anxiety and depression in Parkinson's disease. It also Investigates early markers for anxiety in Parkinson's disease using psycholinguistic (affective priming) paradigms and imaging (electroencephalography, EEG).	Dr Nadeeka Dissanayaka, Associate Professor David Copland, Professor Peter Silburn, Associate Professor John O'Sullivan, Professor Gerard Byrne, Dr Rodney Marsh, Associate Professor George Mellick, Ms Elizabeth Torbey, Ms Elizabeth White, Mr Ricky Nells, Miss Tiffany Au
"Emotional inhibition in Parkinson's disease" This projects aims to identify emotional inhibition in Parkinson's disease patients with and without affective disturbances using psychological paradigms coupled with EEG.	Dr Nadeeka Dissanayaka, Professor David Copland, Dr Anthony Angwin, David Hennessy Associate Professor John O'Sullivan, Professor Peter Silburn

CLINICAL TRIAL	CHIEF INVESTIGATOR/S
"Perspectives and experiences of Parkinson's disease patients with drug induced impulse control disorders and dopamine dysregulation syndrome" This qualitative study aims to identify the phenomenology of DRT-induced impulse control disorders, patients' understanding of their condition and their ability to control their behaviours, and patients' moral identity and beliefs about their personal responsibility.	Dr Adrian Carter, Dr Nadeeka Dissanayaka, Professor Wayne Hall, Associate Professor John O'Sullivan, Dr Rodney Marsh, Mr Peter Bell.
"Cognitive behavioral therapy to treat anxiety and depression in Parkinson's disease" This project aims to design and implement cognitive behavioral therapy for Parkinson's disease patients.	Professor Nancy Pachana, Dr Nadeeka Dissanayaka, Dr Leander Mitchell, Professor Gerard Byrne, Professor Peter Silburn, Associate Professor John O'Sullivan, Dr Rodney Marsh.
"Mindfulness for Parkinson's disease" This project investigates the benefits of mindfulness group therapy to alleviate depression, anxiety, cognitive dysfunction and parkinsonism symptoms in Parkinson's disease.	Dr Nadeeka Dissanayaka, Dr Paul Harnett, Professor Nancy Pachana, Mr Farah Idu Jion, Associate Professor John O'Sullivan, Professor Peter Silburn, Dr Rodney Marsh, Professor Gerard Byrne, Associate Professor George Mellick.
Energy metabolism and lipid storage in Motor Neurone Disease (MND). This project aims to thoroughly assess energy metabolism and body composition in a group of patients with MND and healthy control subjects. We aim to characterize the altered metabolic profile in MND and correlate this with disease progression and survival. We anticipate that these metabolic parameters will provide insights into disease pathogenesis and ultimately provide knowledge to help identify novel metabolic targets for intervention to help those living with MND.	Dr Zara Ioannides, Dr Frederik Steyn, Dr Shyuan Ngo, Professor Pamela McCombe, Dr Robert Henderson
Perilesional and motor cortex (M1) transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) effects on brain language function in post-stroke aphasia Investigates the neural mechanisms of two stimulation sites in aphasia using intrascanner tDCS and functional magnetic resonance imaging	Associate Professor Marcus Meinzer, Professor David Copland, Associate Professor Katie McMahon, Professor Greig de Zubicaray
tDCS effects on learning ability in ageing and mild cognitive impairment (MCI) Investigates long-term effects of multisession tDCS on learning and cognition in ageing and MCI	Associate Professor Marcus Meinzer, Professor David Copland, Professor Matti Laine, Professor Gerard Byrne, Dr. Kana Appadurai, Mr. Garon Perceval.
tDCS effects on postural balance Investigates whether tDCS can improve motor function in healthy young and older individuals	Associate Professor Marcus Meinzer, Dr. Peter Poortvliet, Professor Andy Cresswell
High-definition tDCS effect on theory of mind Assesses potential positive effects of tDCS on social cognition in healthy young and older individuals using a novel type of focal brain stimulation	Associate Professor Marcus Meinzer, Dr Andrew Martin, Mr Garon Perceval
High-definition tDCS effect on executive functions Assesses potential positive effects of tDCS on prefrontal brain function in healthy young and older individuals using a novel type of focal brain stimulation	Associate Professor Marcus Meinzer, Mr Oyetunde Gbadeyan, Associate Professor Katie McMahon
Neural mechanisms underlying language learning enhancement Uses intrascanner tDCS to assess the neural mechanisms underlying superior language learning in healthy young and older individuals	Associate Professor Marcus Meinzer, Professor David Copland, Dr Andrew Martin, Mr Garon Perceval, Associate Professor Katie McMahon
Role of the right hemisphere in language processing Uses inhibitory high-definition intrascanner tDCS to clarify the role of the right hemisphere in language production in ageing and post-stroke aphasia	Associate Professor Marcus Meinzer, Professor Bruce Crosson, Professor David Copland, Associate Professor Katie McMahon, Professor Michael Breakspear, Dr Andrew Martin
'Anti-N-Methyl-D-Aspartate Receptor Encephalitis: an Australian case series examining patterns and predictors of cognitive outcomes' This study aims to investigate the course of recovery from a recently described autoimmune neurological disorder: anti-N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor encephalitis. We are seeking to describe the quality of life, pattern of cognitive performance and outcome predictors associated with recovery from this disorder.	Associate Professor James Scott, Ms Gemma McKeon, Dr Donna Spooner, Dr Gail Robinson, Dr Melissa Connell, Dr Stefan Blum, Dr David Gillis, Mr Alex Ryan
Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Parallel-Group, 12-Month Trial of Leucomethylthioninium bis(hydromethanesulfonate) in subjects with mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease	Professor Gerard Byrne, Dr Vicki Naumann, Dr Kana Appadurai, Ms Liz Arnold, Ms Lyn Isbel
Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Parallel-Group, 18-Month Safety and Efficacy Study of Leucomethylthioninium bis(hydromethanesulfonate) in subjects with mild Alzheimer's disease	Professor Gerard Byrne, Dr Kana Appadurai, Ms Liz Arnold, Ms Lyn Isbel
An Open-Label, Extension Study of the Effects of Leucomethylthioninium bis(hydromethanesulfonate) in Subjects with Alzheimer's Disease or Behavioral Variant Frontotemporal Dementia	Professor Gerard Byrne, Dr Kana Appadurai, Ms Liz Arnold, Ms Lyn Isbel

APPENDIX 8

Staff Listing

CENTRE ACTING DIRECTOR

Professor David Paterson

THEME LEADERS

Professor Paul Colditz
Professor Robert 'Frank' Gardiner
Professor Hayden Homer
Professor Sunil Lakhani
Professor Pamela McCombe
Professor Murray Mitchell
Professor Gregory Rice

VISITING ACADEMICS (Affiliate, Honorary and Adjunct)

Professor Michael Atkinson
Professor Virginia Barbour
Professor Ron Borland
Professor George Bou-Gharios
Professor Leonie Callaway
Professor Anders Cervin
Professor Suzanne Chambers
Professor Helen Chenery
Professor Mahesh Choolani
Associate Professor Jerry Chan
Associate Professor Margaret Cummings
Associate Professor Emma Duncan
Associate Professor G Duncombe
Associate Professor Christine East
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All the academic and professional staff who have contributed to the production of the 2015 Annual Report.

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University of Queensland Centre for Clinical Research

Building 71/918
Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital
Campus, Herston QLD 4029

TELEPHONE +61 7 3346 5555
FACSIMILE +61 7 3346 5509

EMAIL information@uqccr.uq.edu.au
WEBSITE www.uqccr.uq.edu.au

Publication

EDITOR Jenny Johnston
DESIGNER Karmen Chandontrikij
PUBLISHED June 2016
LOCATION Brisbane, Australia

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA