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In the spotlight...

Research ethics and governance forum

The Queensland Health research ethics and governance forum will be held in Brisbane on 7 April 2011 and in Townsville on 8 April 2011.

For further information, contact Sue Jenkins-Marsh on (07) 3234 0134 or visit the [REGU website](#).

Executive Director's message — Professor Robin Mortimer AO

It gives me great pleasure to bring you news of the many achievements from across Queensland Health.

NHMRC Excellence Awards

I am pleased to announce the results of the Excellence Awards, presented by the [National Health and Medical Research Council \(NHMRC\)](#). The awards, held in December 2010, are aimed at recognising the scientific merit, innovation and the research success of ten of Australia's leading health and medical researchers. Congratulations go out to:



- **Professor Paul Hodges** from [The University of Queensland](#) – winner of the NHMRC Achievement Award for Top Ranked NHMRC Research Fellow. Professor Paul Hodges is Director of the NHMRC Centre for Clinical Research Excellence in Spinal Pain, Injury and Health. He has doctorates in physiotherapy and neuroscience and uses this mix of skills to bridge between basic neurophysiological and clinical research. His work aims to understand mechanisms underpinning chronic pain and to develop conservative treatments.
- **Dr Patricia Valery** from the [Queensland Institute of Medical Research](#) – winner of the NHMRC Achievement Awards for Career Development: CDA1. Dr Patricia Valery worked as a paediatrician prior to gaining her PhD. She has been working in Indigenous health research for the last 11 years. Her current work focuses on two critical health needs for Indigenous Australians: cancer and infectious diseases. Her work in cancer will inform service provision on how to best facilitate a multidisciplinary supportive care approach for Indigenous cancer patients. It will also evaluate an antibiotic in treating infectious diseases in Indigenous children. These findings may guide the medical management of such patients.

Further information about the Excellence Awards is available on the [NHMRC website](#).

Office of Health and Medical Research annual report

The [Office of Health and Medical Research \(OHMR\) annual report](#) is now available online. The report covers achievements of [OHMR](#) from establishment in late 2008 until 30 June 2010.



Senior Clinical Research Fellowships

In addition to this, I am pleased to confirm the third round of [Senior Clinical Research Fellowships](#) has now opened for expressions of interest until 9 May 2011. More information about the fellowships and how to apply is included inside this edition.

Database of Research Activity

There have also been some wins for information sharing with the testing phase of the online [Database of Research Activity \(DoRA\)](#). DoRA will be accessible to staff, researchers and the community to ensure we are sharing the latest research information and results from across Queensland.

OHMR news

In team news, please join me in warmly welcoming Vaun Peate as the new Director for the Research Programs and Business Support Units. Vaun, who joined our team in late February, comes to us from Canberra with a wealth of experience working with the Commonwealth Government, including the National Health and Medical Research Council.

On a final and more serious note, I would like to acknowledge the many challenges our staff and the Queensland community have experienced in recent months in the wake of the floods and cyclone. Our thoughts are with those who have been affected during this time. The road to recovery for Queensland will be long but by working together in our communities, and as a community, we can make a difference. Every contribution and bit of support makes a difference, big or small. If you would like to know more about how you can help please visit <http://www.qld.gov.au/floods/>.

Funding programs

Senior Clinical Research Fellowships

Round three is now open

Funding of up to \$850,000 per year for five years is available to encourage leading clinician researchers to undertake research and clinical duties in Queensland. Funding can be used for salary, laboratory consumables and staff support.

Successful applicants will be at the forefront of research, development and innovation. They will provide new clinical and intellectual resources that will enhance Queensland's clinical standing and future research potential.

For further information or to apply online visit the [Senior Clinical Research Fellowships website](#).

Expressions of interest close **Monday 9 May 2011**.

Health Research Fellowships

Round two recipients to be announced shortly, round three to open mid-2011

The successful applicants from round two of the [Health Research Fellowships](#) (HRF) will be announced shortly.

Round three is due to open in mid-2011.

The HRFs focus on research that can be translated directly to better patient experiences and outcomes. These fellowships play a role in developing and retaining the current Queensland Health workforce by providing an opportunity to engage in research as part of their current position.

Clinical Academic Fellowships

Round two recipients to be announced shortly, round three to open mid-2011

The successful applicants from round two of the [Clinical Academic Fellowships](#) (CAF) will be announced shortly.

Round three is due to open in mid-2011.

The CAFs offer up to \$75,000 per year towards the salary of a new clinical academic position created by Queensland Universities and Queensland publicly funded health care facilities. The fellowships are designed to foster collaboration between Queensland Government health care facilities and Queensland Universities, by creating a new position for a clinical academic within Queensland Health.

Research ethics and governance

Database of Research Activity

The Queensland Health [Database of Research Activity \(DoRA\)](#) was released for testing in February 2011. DoRA is a publicly accessible, online database storing all Queensland Health human research, not just clinical trials. It is a first for an Australian public health organisation.



The database allows researchers, the public and other stakeholders to search for and view summary level information about research being conducted across Queensland Health facilities. This:

- facilitates greater collaboration and communication between researchers
- improves patients' access to research information
- raises awareness about the benefits of health and medical research.

For more information, visit the [DoRA website](#) or contact Sara Gray on (07) 3234 1592.

Researcher support



Mentor Program

Register now to become a research mentor

A research Mentor Program has been established by OHMR. The program is designed to provide a supportive environment in which an early career researcher has access to a mentor who can provide advice on a range of health and medical research issues and assist in career development.

OHMR is currently inviting experienced health and medical researchers to become mentors, and will invite early career researchers to register as mentees in March.

For more information or to apply online visit the [Mentor Program website](#).

Intellectual property and commercialisation

Intellectual Property education session

If you've ever wanted to learn more about Intellectual Property (IP) sign up to the Centre for Healthcare Improvement's Education Strategy Forum, being held on Wednesday 1 June 2011 in seminar room 1, block 6, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Herston.

Using case studies, the session will focus on identifying issues that arise when copyright is developed within the [Centre for Healthcare Improvement Division](#). Staff within the centre who are interested in contributing to this session are invited to email the [QH IP Officer](#).

Guidance notes to clarify ownership of IP created by QH employees

Guidance notes written by Crown Law have been developed to assist in clarifying the ownership of IP created by Queensland Health (QH) employees.



Two key issues identified by Crown Law in reaching a valid decision are:

- confirming that the person who created the IP was an employee of QH, and
- if so, clarifying that the employee created the IP in carrying out their employment duties.

Please email the [QH IP Officer](#) to obtain a copy of the document.

Gold Coast Health Service District engages external IP service provider

The Gold Coast Health Service District (GCHSD) is engaging The Australian Institute for Commercialisation (AIC) for the purposes of identifying, protecting, and, where appropriate, commercialising IP opportunities developed within the GCHSD.



The AIC will also provide an IP awareness and skills development program tailored to the needs of GCHSD employees.

GCHSD employees can contact Mr Mitch McGuire via [email](#) or calling 0411 739 296.

Hospital Foundation spotlight

Mater Foundation

[Mater Foundation](#) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to the promotion of health care and medical research in and beyond the Queensland community. The foundation engages and stewards philanthropic support to [Mater Health Services](#) and [Mater Medical Research Institute](#) (MMRI).



Donations to the foundation help to:

- deliver the best possible outcome to the 500 000 patients and their families cared for each year
- understand the causes, prevention and optimum treatment for many diseases through medical research and
- educate the next generation of health care professionals to provide exceptional care every day.

MMRI is committed to partnering research with its use in treating patients. This commitment has led to the establishment of four research themes:

- understanding and preventing disease
- improving treatment of disease
- mothers' and babies' health and
- and healthy development.

Mater Foundation is proud to support MMRI in their work as a contributor to the worldwide medical research effort to improve health.

For further information visit www.materfoundation.org.au or phone 07 3163 8000.

For further information on Queensland Hospital Foundations visit the [foundation spotlight page](#).

Events

Rick Hansen 25th anniversary visit – Queensland spinal cord injury research lunch



Rick Hansen, President and Chief Executive Officer of the [Rick Hansen Foundation](#), is a well-known Canadian Paralympian and an activist for people with spinal cord injuries. He recently visited Victoria, New South Wales and Brisbane to mark the 25th Anniversary of his 'Man in Motion' Tour that originally brought him to Australia in 1987.

[OHMR](#) organised the 'Rick Hansen 25th Anniversary Visit – Queensland Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Research Lunch' to coincide with Mr Hansen's visit to Brisbane. The lunch showcased Queensland's research facilities, current SCI research, and potential collaborative projects that aim to strengthen and increase the number of collaborations with the Rick Hansen Foundation and Rick Hansen Institute.

Mr Hansen, and Mr Mark Aston, Senior Director of the [Rick Hansen Institute](#), were guest speakers at the lunch which captivated the audience of 40 Queensland researchers. It was a wonderful opportunity for Queensland researchers, who are currently engaged in SCI research across the fields

of basic research, acute clinical care, rehabilitation and accessibility to hear about the current research being undertaken through the support of the Rick Hansen Foundation and Rick Hansen Institute. Additionally, representatives from [Queensland University of Technology](#), [University of Queensland](#) and [Griffith University](#) also presented the ground breaking research into SCI being undertaken at their institutes and highlighted further areas of collaboration.



Innovation: strengthening business and industry event

You are invited to discover what funding and assistance is available in the Toowoomba region and how you can use it to make your business and research more innovative and competitive. This event is hosted by: [AusIndustry](#), [University of Southern Queensland](#), [Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation](#), [Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce](#) and [Commercialisation Australia](#).

Details as follows:

- *Date:* Wednesday 23 March 2011
- *Time:* 8.00 am - 12.00 pm
- *Venue:* USQ Chamber Room, Level 5, S Block, University of Southern Queensland, West St, Toowoomba
- *Cost:* Complimentary
- *RSVP:* Monday 21st March 2011 by phoning 4631 2777 or [email](#).

'Cook for a Cure' information session

Places are still available for the information seminar about [Research Australia's](#) new fundraising and community outreach program – 'Cook for a Cure'.



- *Date:* Thursday 3 March 2011
- *Time:* 11.00am – 12.00 pm
- *Venue:* The Queensland Brain Institute, University of Queensland, St Lucia Campus
- *RSVP:* ASAP [online](#).

Cook for a Cure is a month in August 2011 where friends, family and work colleagues can come together and support their chosen health research area over a meal. It will provide a unique opportunity for individuals and organisations to get behind medical research in Australia by supporting their chosen cause, research project, or Research Australia member.

Health and medical research calendar of events

March	
17-18	AHRDMA 20th Annual Scientific meeting
April	
6-8	International society for research on internet interventions (PDF)
10-13	Australian Health Promotion Association 20th national conference
13	NHMRC Mental Health Workshop 2011 – Research and Research Translation in Mental Health
27-29	2nd Australasian workshop on Econometrics and Health Economics
May	
5	Coalition for Research to Improve Aboriginal Health
9-11	7th Australasian Redesigning Healthcare Summit

- 10-11 [2011 Stem Cell Symposium](#) (PDF)
- 17-20 [Alzheimer's Australia 14th national conference](#)
- 26-27 [ARCS Scientific Congress](#)

June

- 1 [Centre for Healthcare Improvement's Education Strategy Forum – Intellectual Property](#)
- 2-10 [ASMR Medical Research week](#)

For more information on other events visit the [health and medical research calendar of events](#).

Contact us

We want to hear from you. Please let us know about any achievements, new ideas for improving health and medical research, or any upcoming events by emailing [OHMR](#).

OHMR reserves the right to make editorial alterations based on content submissions.

If this information is relevant, please disseminate it to your contacts and networks.

If you have been forwarded this eNewsletter and would like to subscribe to the [Office of Health and Medical Research](#) mailing list please complete the [subscription form](#).

