

## Spotlight on Queensland Health researchers

### Professor David Johnson

MB BS (Hon 1, University Gold Medal), FRACP, PhD (Syd)

**Research area** Nephrology and Urology

**Position** Director, Metro South and Ipswich Nephrology and Transplant Service; Professor of Medicine, The University of Queensland; and Chair, State-wide Renal Clinical Network

**Research experience** 12 years (post PhD)



### Health Research Fellowship

**Year/s** 2010 – 2015

**Project** Conducting high quality clinical trials in kidney diseases in Australia and New Zealand.

**Host organisation/s** Princess Alexandra Hospital

#### Future benefit for Queenslanders

Development of world class, innovative solutions that make meaningful differences to people with kidney disease.

### Questions

#### *How did you get into research?*

I never considered undertaking research until my mentor and training supervisor strongly advised me that obtaining research qualifications would enhance my career potential and broaden my horizons. I therefore moved to Sydney and undertook a basic science PhD investigating growth factor action in human kidney disease. I have never looked back since.

#### *What is your normal day like in research?*

I seldom have a full day to undertake pure research, instead balancing my time between research, teaching, clinical duties, administration and committee participation. Research is a team effort and I spend a lot of time brainstorming and collectively problem-solving with my colleagues.

#### *Why do you undertake research?*

I undertake research because it is critical to improving standards of care, enhancing the health and well-being of patients and improving the cost-effectiveness of health delivery. Research also helps me to be a better doctor.

**“Research helps me to be a better doctor.”**

#### *What makes Queensland a great place to undertake research?*

Queensland offers a great lifestyle and is an ideal place to raise a family. Queensland also has a strong research culture, excellent research infrastructure, and a critical mass of productive researchers affording sufficient collaborative expertise to help me achieve my research goals.

#### *What is one interesting fact about you?*

I have six great children and a very understanding wife.

### Health Research Fellowship (HRF)

The Health Research Fellowships provide up to \$150,000 per annum for five years. The funding will allow Queensland publicly funded health care facilities to back-fill the clinical time of practicing clinicians or other health professionals in order to increase their time spent on clinical or health service research.

### Office of Health and Medical Research (OHMR)

The OHMR, established within Queensland Health, facilitates a number of funding programs for health and medical researchers aimed at improving the health and wealth of Queenslanders.

**Tomorrow's Queensland:  
strong, green, smart, healthy and fair**