Research and Publications

Centres for Health Research

Key Staff
Chair Professor Ken Ho
Chair, Human Research Ethics Committee Professor Maher Gandhi
Director, Research Development and Ethics Areti Gavrilidis
Manager, Research Governance Cecile Francis
Manager, Research Ethics Sonia Hancock

The PAH campus has a long history of commitment to research that translates discoveries to improved clinical practice and policy implementation. Our research strengths are directly aligned with the key National Health Priorities: cancer control, cardiovascular health, injury prevention and control, mental health, diabetes mellitus, asthma, arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions, obesity, dementia.

This report highlights the commitment of the researchers on the PAH campus to investigate innovative solutions to real world clinical issues.

Of the many highlights in 2011 was the awarding of over $4 million in NHMRC Project Grants and $1.4 million of research funding support by the PA Research Support Scheme to our researchers.

In 2012, the PA Research Scheme received over 100 high quality applications. Dr Ashby announced the successful 17 projects across five categories for a total funding of $1.1 million. The successful researchers were from nursing, allied health and medical fields.

The Infrastructure Support Program funded by the Private Practice Trust Fund, awarded 13 grants totalling $110,000 to PAH chief investigators who had successful NHMRC Project grant application for funding during 2012. The scheme aims to reward research excellence by supporting the indirect cost of research.

The 2011 PA Health Symposium was a highlight on the research calendar: “Health problems of our times: The merging of inheritance, indulgence and therapy”.

The 2011 Health Symposium carried on the 51 year tradition of PAH Week. The Symposium built on and showcased the considerable achievements of researchers over more than a half century on the PAH campus. So why the name change? The change is symbolic of the metamorphosis of PAH from a major reputable Brisbane hospital to a leading health institution of the modern era at the heart of the Diamantina Health Partners, Queensland’s first Academic Health Science Centre. The name change formalises ‘a week’ of activities into a research and clinical innovation showcase structured within a thematic Symposium. The issues addressed are globally relevant and achievements recognised internationally.

Each session during the week focussed on the issues within a particular disease group: inflammation, hypertension, cancer and diabetes. Also incorporated into the program were two interactive workshops: Technology in Healthcare, and Innovative Therapies. In addition, a stellar line-up of international and national guest speakers from a wide variety of clinical professions presented throughout the week.

2012-13 promises to be an exciting year ahead, marked by the projected completion of the TRI building in August and the establishment of the Diamantina Health Partners (DHP), Queensland’s first academic health science centre. The CHR has a full and active agenda to support research endeavours and collaborations at the PAH campus.
Research and Publications

Translational Research Institute
4 January 2011
Construction commenced in 2010 with site works and foundations laid

Translational Research Institute
5 October 2011
Most of the concrete shell of the building was complete with windows and walls to take shape

Translational Research Institute
19 June 2012
The building is on track to achieve practical completion in November 2012
This year, Princess Alexandra Hospital joined seven of Queensland’s top research institutes, hospitals and universities to form Queensland’s first Academic Health Science Centre.

Diamantina Health Partners is a significant step in harnessing the research, education, training and clinical expertise of each organisation to improve treatment for some of the sickest patients in the state.

The aim of the centre is to drive collaboration between traditionally independent health, education and research entities. This collaboration ensures that discoveries in medical research are swiftly translated to the clinical environment, with direct benefits for patients.

Diamantina Health Partners aims to break down barriers and increase cooperation by promoting joint programs combining research and clinical work; providing integrated leadership, governance and career opportunities; and sharing relevant expertise for a common goal.

The centre is based on the internationally recognised 'tripartite' model, which integrates the three arms of research, teaching and patient care.

Diamantina Health Partners’ mission and vision statements are currently being determined and refined by its interim board members.

The alliance is made up of:
» Princess Alexandra Hospital
» Mater Health Services
» The University of Queensland
» Queensland University of Technology
» Translational Research Institute
» UQ Health Care (GP superclinics)
» Metro South Mental and Community Health
» Inala Indigenous Health Service
Research and Publications

The PA Research Foundation was established nearly thirty years ago to raise funds to support the Princess Alexandra Hospital. The Foundation raises funds for health and medical research carried out on the PA Hospital campus - to continue to investigate disease prevention, early detection, treatment and cures.

This financial year the Foundation raised over $1.8million, a 17% increase on the 2010-11 year.

The majority of this increase can be attributed to a significant increase in revenue from our feature event The Great Brisbane Duck Race and new partnerships with PA Hospital departments.

Wonderful support was again received from the Australian Leisure and Hospitality breast cancer campaign and the Queensland Hotels Association. Our many dedicated individual donors are also to be acknowledged as they continued to increase their contributions to health and medical research at the PA.

For the second year in succession the Foundation has committed over $1.7 million to new research, including grants of $1 million from the hospital’s Private Practice Trust Fund. Past researchers funded by the Foundation have continued to see their projects approved for ongoing NHMRC and ARC research grants confirming our position as a vital support mechanism for promising early stage medical research.

This year saw the Foundation extend our Men’s Health Initiative with a dedicated fundraising and awareness campaign conducted through the Spirit Hotel Group. Conducted in June with our partners Ten News and Triple M Radio the event raised almost $70,000.

To each of our donors, thank you for your continued contribution to the great work and achievements of our research community.

To our growing team of corporate partners and sponsors, thank you on behalf of the Foundation for your participation in our community fundraising activities.

In conclusion, I would like to thank dedicated staff in the Foundation office and my fellow Board members for their time, dedication and guidance throughout the year. I look forward to further growth of our fundraising income, which will continue to support health and medical research that saves lives and improves the health of our community.

Robert Bowen
Chairman, PA Research Foundation

Board Members as at 30 June 2012

» Mr Robert Bowen
  Chairman
» Mr Bill Deutrom
  Deputy Chairman
» Prof David Theile
» Dr Richard Ashby
» Professor Ian Frazer
» Mr Andrew Griffiths
» Mr Cameron Buchanan
» Mr Robert Vines
» Mr Les Watson
» Mr Richard Bowly
» Mr Michael Wille

» Ms Heather Tyrell
  Company Secretary
» Mr Michael Back
  Honorary Solicitor
Research and Publications

Division of Cancer Services

Please see the CHR Annual Report for Publication listings

Division of Clinical Support Services

Nutrition and Dietetics

Please see the CHR Annual Report for Publication listings

Occupational Therapy


Pharmacy

Please see the CHR Annual Report for Publication listings

Physiotherapy

Please see the CHR Annual Report for Publication listings

Speech Pathology

Please see the CHR Annual Report for Publication listings

Division of Medicine

Alcohol and Drug Dependency Unit


Conference Presentations


Connor JP, Pegum N, Feeney GF, Young RM. 2012 (June). ‘Psychological and psychosocial functioning in patients with alcohol-related liver disease pre and post-liver transplantation.’ In RSA Abstracts. 35th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Research Society on Alcoholism (RSA), San Francisco, CA, United States.

Cardiology


Korczyk D, Hill J, Denaro Ch, Finn H. 2012. ‘Enzyme replacement therapy in a case of Anderson-Fabry disease with advanced cardiac involvement and malignant ventricular arrhythmias.’ CSANZ.


Clinical Pharmacology


Research and Publications


**Dermatology**

Please see the CHR Annual Report for Publication listings *

**Diabetes and Endocrinology**


Inder WJ, Obeyesekere VR, Alford FP, Jang C. ‘Skeletal muscle 11betaHSD1 activity of nondiabetic subjects is unaltered in central obesity-associated insulin resistance.’ Horm Metab Res. 43. p. 257-60.


La Gerche A, Bums AT, Mooney DJ, et al. ‘Exercise-induced right ventricular dysfunction and structural remodelling in endurance athletes.’ Eur Heart J.


Gastroenterology and Hepatology


Research and Publications


Presentation / Abstract

St John AT, Talisz C, Black MJ, Stuart KA & Holtmann G. ‘Utilisation of transient elastography in the routine clinical setting: performance of the operator during the familiarisation process.’

Hypertension

Please see the CHR Annual Report for Publication listings *

Infection Management Services

Please see the CHR Annual Report for Publication listings *

Internal Medicine and Clinical Epidemiology


Nephrology


Oct 23. [Epub ahead of print].


Research and Publications


Respiratory


Davies JM, Li H, Green M, Towers M, Upham JW. 2012. 'Subtropical grass pollen allergens are important for allergic respiratory diseases in subtropical regions.' Journal/Clin Transl Allergy. 2(1). p. 4.


Research and Publications


Rheumatology


Division of Rehabilitation

Acquired Brain Injury Outreach Service


Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit

Please see the CHR Annual Report for Publication listings *

Spinal Outreach Team

Please see the CHR Annual Report for Publication listings *

Transitional Rehabilitation Program


Division of Surgery

Breast and Endocrine


Bennett I & Biggar M. A Triangular Advancement Technique to Avoid the Dog-Ear Deformity Following Mastectomy in Large Breasted Women. Annals Royal College Surgeons England 2011; 93: 4-5.


Tam D, Biggar M, Bennett I. Ultrasound-Guided Resection in Autograft-Dependant Recurrent Secondary Hyperparathyroidism. WJOES January – April 2011; 3 (1):21-23

Ear Nose Throat


Conference Presentations


Panizza B. 2011. ‘Paediatric skull base tumours.’ Australian and New Zealand Society of Paediatric Otolaryngology Conference, Brisbane, Australia, August 27.

Perry C. 2012. ‘The Difficult Thyroid.’ ASOHNS workshop: 60 minute presentation. Workshop conducted by A/Prof Chris Perry, Dr Scott Coman and Dr Raefe Gundelach. Dr Tim Warren, Adelaide. Australasian College of Dermatologists Annual Meeting.


Orthopaedics

Please see the CHR Annual Report for Publication listings *

Plastics and Reconstructive

Please see the CHR Annual Report for Publication listings *

Trauma Service

Please see the CHR Annual Report for Publication listings *

Upper Gastrointestinal

Please see the CHR Annual Report for Publication listings *

Research and Publications

Medical and Nursing Services

Pathology


Department of Emergency Medicine


Isbister GK, Page CB. 2011. ‘Early endoscopy or CT in caustic injuries: a re-evaluation of clinical practice.’ Clinical Toxicology. 49. p. 641-642.


Sinnott M, Shaban R. 2011. ‘Can we have a culture of patient safety without one of staff safety?’ BMJ. 342. p. c6171.


