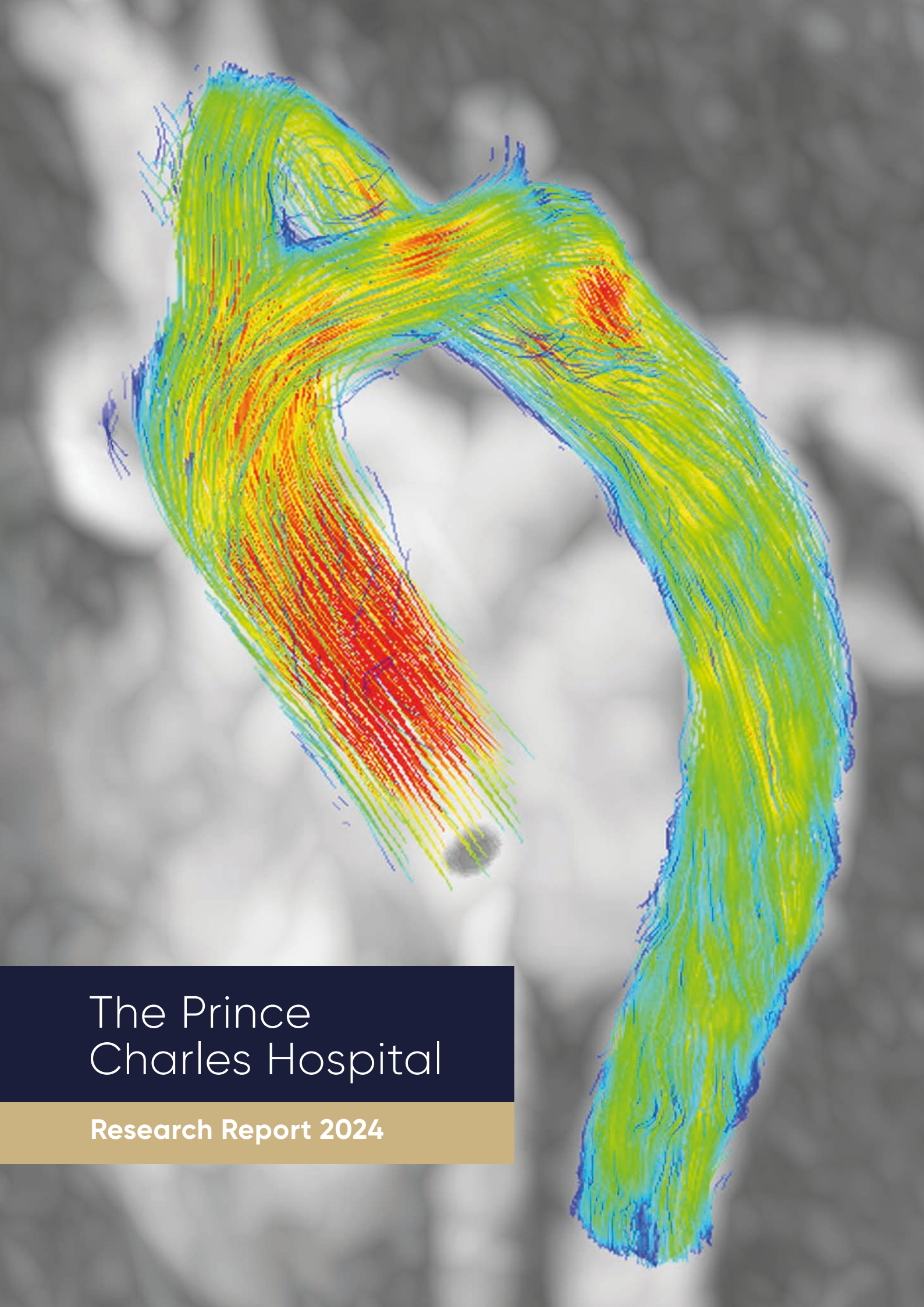
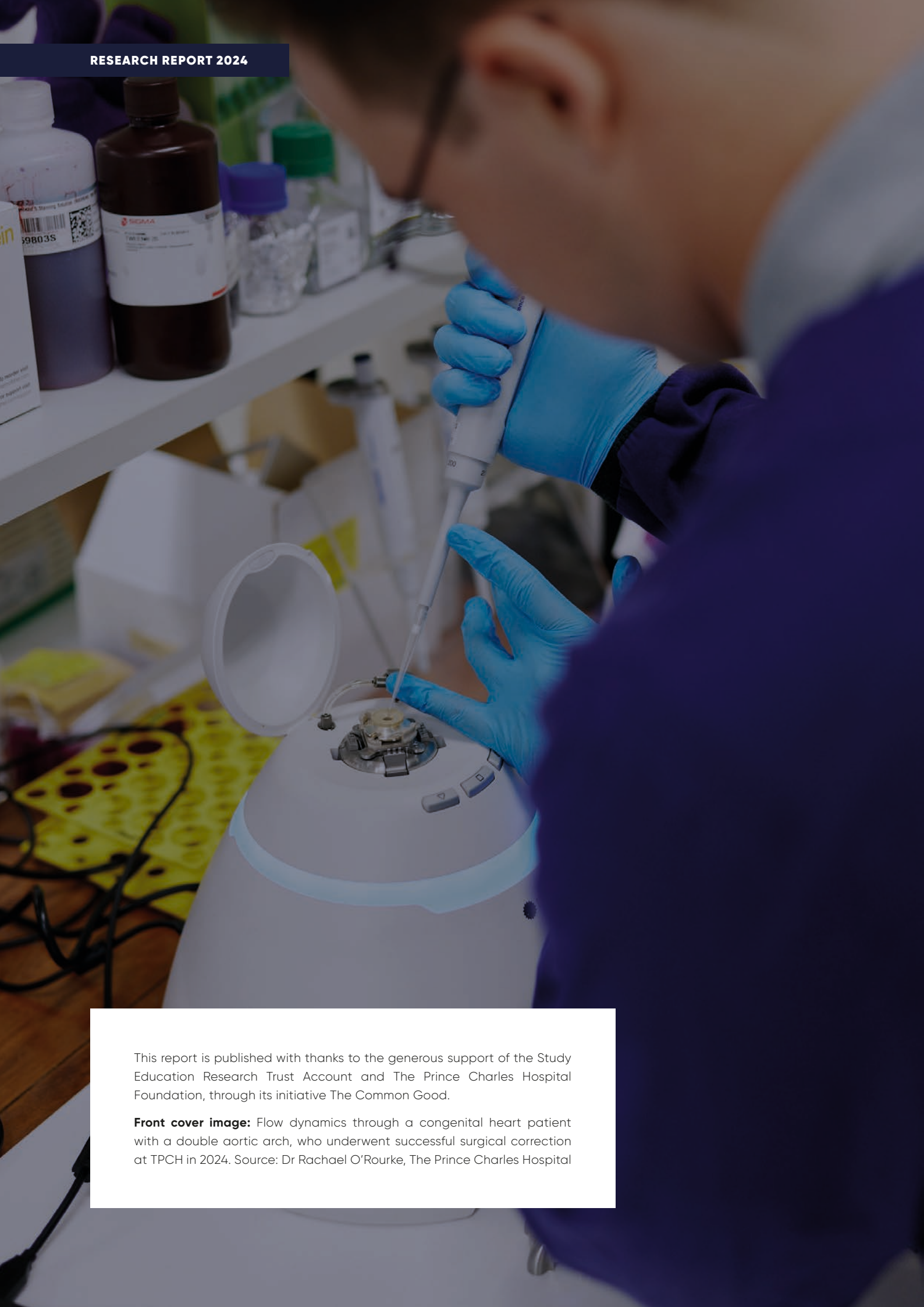


The Prince Charles Hospital

Research Report 2024



This report is published with thanks to the generous support of the Study Education Research Trust Account and The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation, through its initiative The Common Good.

Front cover image: Flow dynamics through a congenital heart patient with a double aortic arch, who underwent successful surgical correction at TPCH in 2024. Source: Dr Rachael O'Rourke, The Prince Charles Hospital

Contents

Key Statistics

PHDS AWARDED

- **Asha Bonney** - *Lung cancer screening with low-dose computed tomography; adding value by promoting physical activity, optimising early coronary artery disease detection, and recognising psychosocial impact in Australia.*
- **Eloise Shaw** - *Screening for biomarkers in non-small cell lung cancer.*
- **Hollie Bendotti** - *Artificial Intelligence for Smoking Cessation: Development and Effectiveness of Quinn, a Smoking Cessation Smartphone Chatbot.*
- **Hwei Lan Tan** - *Using experience-based co-design to explore smartphone and app use by people with vision impairment and develop a web-based training and learning support resource toolkit.*
- **Kathleen Hall** - *Evaluation of the inclusion of an allied health assistant within an Adult Cystic Fibrosis Centre: their role, scope of practice, and impact on physiotherapy services.*
- **Sarah Davies** - *Exploring an occupation-based metacognitive strategy approach to improve occupational performance, executive functioning and self-efficacy of adults with Parkinson's Disease.*

STUDENTS

- PhD: 53
- MPhil: 8
- MRes: 4
- Honours: 2

PUBLICATIONS

- 324 articles and book chapters

PRESENTATIONS

Australia

- Brisbane: 32
- Adelaide: 19
- Cairns: 6
- Canberra: 1
- Darwin: 2
- Gold Coast: 5
- Hobart: 1
- Melbourne: 13
- Perth: 2
- Sunshine Coast: 5
- Sydney: 5

TOTAL: 91

International

- New Zealand: 11
- Austria: 1
- Canada: 3
- China: 1
- Czech Republic: 3
- Dubai: 2
- Hong Kong: 1
- Italy: 1
- Japan: 2
- Kuwait: 3
- Malaysia: 3
- Poland: 3
- Singapore: 2
- Thailand: 3
- Turkey: 5
- United Kingdom: 5
- United States of America: 15

TOTAL: 64

- Virtual: 10

★ RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024

★ **Breakthrough in Valve Therapies**
CCRC's structural heart team successfully performed the VDYNE tricuspid valve procedure on three of the first 39 patients worldwide. These first-in-human procedures were supported by the CATHARSIS team, providing critical support in triage, procedural guidance, and follow-up.

★ **Reintroduction of Highly Specialised Surgical Technique**
ACHD have reintroduced the Personalised External Aortic Root Support (PEARS) program at TPCH. Rarely available in Australia, this technique offers patients advanced treatment options alongside valve-sparing root surgery.

★ **Donor Heart Preservation**
Hypothermic Oxygenated Perfusion (HOPE) has now become the preferred method for organ preservation, with ~160 successful heart transplants completed in 2024 using this technique.

★ **Shaping Policy**
Endocrine research from CFRG informed a submission to the Parliamentary Health and Aged Care Inquiry into Diabetes, shaping the 2024 landmark report The State of Diabetes Mellitus in Australia.

★ **Innovative Therapies**
The non-pharmacological management of dementia and delirium has been a major focus of IMS in 2024, with groundwork laid for individualised music therapy as a novel approach to improve patient outcomes and quality of life.

★ **Major milestone for biobank**
The ieQ Biobank reached a major milestone in 2024, having surpassed 100 participants. This has created a foundation for molecular sepsis research nationally, with a tri-state endocarditis biobank now in development.

★ **Equity in Sleep Health**
The Sleep Health Research Group was awarded a SWIFT Grant for a collaborative project focused on sleep disorders among First Nations peoples in South-East Queensland, aiming to address equity in sleep health care.

★ **Advancing Lung Research Through Precision Genomics**
The acquisition of a state-of-the-art digital PCR system at UQTRC expands capacity for high-precision genomic analysis of tissue, lung, and blood samples, advancing research into lung conditions and respiratory health.

$ ACTIVE GRANTS

- Equipment: $600,000 (4)
- Project & Program Grants: $8,552,723 (118)
- Capacity Building Grant: $950,291 (7)
- Scholarships & Fellowships: $6,498,857 (17)
- Industry Sponsored: $175,021 (4)

TOTAL: $16,776,892 (150)

$ TPCHF GRANTS FUNDED

- Equipment: $2,624,835 (16)
- Project and Program Support: $1,511,092 (29)
- New Investigator: $164,296 (14)
- PhD Scholarships: $226,441 (3)
- Research Fellowships: $2,130,000 (7)

TOTAL: $6,656,664 (69)

Awards

TPCH Staff Excellence Awards

- **Dr Ieuan Evans, Thoracic Medicine Program**
  Researcher of the Year
- **Dr Linh Ngo, Cardiology Program**
  Rising Star of Research
- **Cystic Fibrosis Research Group, Thoracic Medicine Program**
  Research Partnerships Award
- **Fractured Neck of Femur Team**
  Excellence in Performance Award
- **Allied Health Research Coordination and Knowledge Translation Team**
  Research Support Award

TPCH Hour of Power Research Presentation Awards

- **Dr Oystein Tronstad**
  Richard Slaughter Award for Best Clinical Presentation
- **Dr Simon Apte**
  Michael Ray Award for Best Non-Clinical Presentation
- **Dr Sandra Parker**
  Highly commended
- **Dr Molly-rose McInerney**
  Paul Zimmerman Award for Best New Investigator Presentation
- **Luke Churchill**
  Highly commended
- **Jinyang Yang**
  People's Choice Award

TPCH Research Awards 2024

- **Peter Lazzarini (AHRC, Podiatry)**
  Graeme Nielson Best Published Paper Award for 2020
- **Peter Lazzarini (AHRC, Podiatry)**
  Graeme Nielson Best Published Paper Award for 2021
- **Linh Ngo, (Cardiology Program)**
  Graeme Nielson Best Published Paper Award for 2022

Metro North HHS Research Excellence Awards

- **Dr Linh Ngo**
  Finalist, Rising Star Award

Other

- **Dan Chambers**
  Lung Health Legend, Lung Foundation Australia
- **Lai-Ying Zhang**
  TSANZ Orphan Lung Diseases, Lung Transplant, Interstitial Lung Disease and Pulmonary Vascular Disease (OLIV) Special Interest Group Award Winner
- **Karen Herd**
  Dietetic Poster Research Prize, Dieticians Australia Conference 2024
- **Sarah Mackay**
  Dieticians Australia New Researcher Award, Dieticians Australia Conference 2024
- **Henry Marshall**
  Fellow of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology, Asian Pacific Society of Respirology
- **Nchafatso Obonyo**
  Jamhuri Day Diaspora Award - Science Innovation (Uvumbuzi) Category, Government of the Republic of Kenya
- **Helen Wallace**
  NIDCD sponsored Academy of Aphasia Young Investigator Travel Fellowship, Academy of Aphasia 62nd Annual Meeting, Nara, Japan 2024
- **Jenny Kirby**
  Best Quality Improvement Project, Renal Society of Australasia
- **Karen Herd**
  Dietetic Research Prize supported by Dietitians Australia, Australasian Cystic Fibrosis Conference 2024
- **Ann Finnimore**
  Awarded top-cited author status 2022-2023, International Journal of Language & Communication Disorders, Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists
- **Oystein Tronstad**
  Queensland Research Excellence Showcase – People's Choice Award, Queensland Research Excellence Showcase
- **Scott Bell**
  European Cystic Fibrosis Society Award, European Cystic Fibrosis Society
- **Scott Bell**
  Fellowship, Australian Academy of Health and Medical Science
- **Linh Ngo**
  Top Reviewer for European Heart Journal - Case Reports, European Heart Journal
- **Mary Bayat**
  Finalist, CSANZ Heart Failure Prize, Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand
- **Mary Bayat**
  Winner, CSANZ PhD Poster Prize, Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand
- **John Mackintosh**
  Clean Air Research Award, Asian Pacific Society of Respirology
- **John Mackintosh**
  Best Clinical Oral, Australasian Rare Lung Disease Short Course 2024, Australasian Rare Lung Disease Conference
- **Jon Fanning**
  Heart Foundation's Ross Honen Award for Innovation 2024, National Heart Foundation
- **Jenny Kirby**
  Highly commended, Herston Research Symposium
- **Sarah Mackay**
  Collaborative for Allied Health Research, Learning and Innovation (CAHRLI) Local Award

Foreword

Heart, dedication and talent drive life-changing research breakthroughs.

In 2024, The Prince Charles Hospital (TPCH) reflected on its more than 70-year history, marked by pioneering milestones across several areas including heart and lung transplantation, adult cystic fibrosis, adult congenital heart disease, and complex cardiac care. These achievements have not only advanced practice in these specialist areas but have also influenced healthcare nationally and internationally. Such progress is only possible through research – and through the people who dedicate their skills and energy to improving the lives of others.

As a leading centre for clinical and translational research, particularly in cardiothoracic medicine and surgery, critical care, and orthopaedics, the Hospital, with the support of The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation, continues to drive and contribute to national and international clinical trials and collaborative projects.

The accomplishments featured in this Research Report are extraordinary. They reflect determination, collaboration, and the shared commitment to translate research into tangible outcomes that benefit patients. Many of these successes were achieved while clinicians and researchers also responded to frontline demands, a testament to their resilience and dedication.

To strengthen collaboration and multidisciplinary research, the Foundation launched its first 'Collaboration Seed Grants' in 2024, awarding more than $129,000 across selected projects. These grants were among 69 awarded during the year, representing an investment of $6.65 million in research and equipment. This support is only made possible through the generosity of our community. As of December 2024, the Foundation was proud to support 269 active research grants.

It was also a year of academic achievement as six PhDs were awarded to members of the TPCH research community. Collectively, researchers published 324 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters – an impressive output that deserves recognition and celebration.

The 2024 TPCH Researcher of the Year was awarded to thoracic physician Dr Ieuan Evans for his pioneering work in developing a Therapeutic Drug Monitoring program for Trikafta. Dr Evans contributes broadly to research across general thoracic services, the Adult Cystic Fibrosis Centre, and non-tuberculous mycobacterial service, with a strong focus on bronchiectasis and the treatment of Mycobacterium abscessus.

The Hospital was also proud to have The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation recognised as the 2024 Queensland Philanthropic Foundation of the Year by Queensland Gives. This award highlights the collective contributions of our community – through research, patient care, donations, volunteering, fundraising, grants, and advocacy – all working together for the common good.

Research is vital to improving health outcomes for future generations. As we reflect on the hospital's 2024 research achievements, we are proud and inspired by the passion, expertise, and drive of this exceptional community. We are equally grateful to the individuals and organisations who support this mission through philanthropy, government funding, grants, and in-kind contributions. Their generosity fuels discovery, innovation, and bold ideas that ultimately help people live healthier for longer.

Christopher Morton
Board Chair
The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation

Steve Francia
Chief Executive Officer
The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation

Tami Photinos
Executive Director
The Prince Charles Hospital

A/Prof. Michael Nissen
Director of Research
The Prince Charles Hospital

Adult Congenital/Marfan and Aneurysm Research Group

We aim to explore the latest medical, surgical, and percutaneous interventions for young adults with congenital heart disease, connective tissue disorders, and aortopathy.

HEAD OF THE RESEARCH GROUP

- Ryan Maxwell

RESEARCH GROUP MEMBERS

- Darren Walters
- Wandy Chan
- Sylvia Chen
- Vishva Wijesekera
- Kylie Burns
- Yong Wee
- Clement Tan

2024 SNAPSHOT

- **Members:** 8
- **Clinical Trials and Studies:** 1
- **Publications:** Multiple in ANZ Fontan Registry

THE CHANGING FACE OF CARDIAC PATIENTS

Until relatively recently, children with congenital heart disease were rarely expected to reach adulthood. Advances in medical and surgical care mean that today, more of these patients are living well into their adult years. Alongside this growing population, we are also identifying new patients with aortopathy related to underlying connective tissue disorders or age-related changes. Managing these complex conditions demands ongoing innovation, multidisciplinary care, and up-to-date knowledge of evolving treatment options.

Aortopathy and adult congenital heart disease remain areas of cardiology with limited large-scale randomised controlled trials. As a result, current clinical guidelines are largely consensus-based rather than derived from robust trial evidence. Our group is committed to addressing this gap by compiling and analysing high-quality local data, contributing to both national and international guidelines in these specialised fields.

HIGHLIGHTS

One of the year's most notable achievements was the recommencement of the **Personalised External Aortic Root Support (PEARS)** program at The Prince Charles Hospital. This highly specialised surgical technique—rarely available in Australia—provides a personalised mesh support for patients with aortic root dilatation, preserving the native aortic valve. Its reintroduction enables our patients to access the most advanced options alongside valve-sparing root surgery.

We also re-established and streamlined the **aortopathy multidisciplinary team**, which now provides comprehensive management for patients approaching surgical intervention. Importantly, TPCH is currently the only centre in Australia collecting dedicated local aortic surgery data. In 2025, we will begin detailed analysis of this dataset to inform local management protocols.

Our research contributions extended to multiple **ANZ Fontan Registry** publications, supporting long-term outcomes research in adults with single-ventricle physiology. We also participated in the **CH-FIT trial**, an important study assessing the benefits of resistance training for adult congenital heart patients.

Our group's strength lies in its multidisciplinary nature, uniting expertise from congenital heart disease, structural intervention, cardiac imaging, cardiothoracic surgery, aortopathy, genetics, and heart failure/transplant care. This collaborative approach ensures our patients benefit from the most comprehensive, evidence-informed management available.

Adult's and Children's Emergency Research Collaborative (ACER)

Research transforms Emergency care. At ACER, we embed research into daily practice—on every shift, across every role, and for every patient.

HEAD OF THE RESEARCH GROUP

- Dr Faye Jordan

RESEARCH GROUP MEMBERS

- Louise Mills
- Barbara Zangerl
- Jared-Tyrell Ah-Leong
- Joshua Wilcox
- Dr Gavin Fincher
- Sarah Hazelwood
- Prof Paul Fulbrook
- Rachael McCall
- Dr Lisa Gotley
- Dr Tigue Tozer
- Dr William See
- Andrea Hetherington
- Leisa Bauer
- Meenu Wadhwa
- Sheree Rablin
- Dr Hanh Pham
- Richard Anderson
- Dr Visai Muruganandah
- Laura Rogers
- Geoff Crowley

AFFILIATED TPCH STAFF

- Dr Wandy Chan
- Dr Isuru Ranasinghe
- Dr Maryam Bayat
- Dr Kiran Shekar
- Dr Denzil Gill
- Dr Stephen Parker
- Dr Debbie Lee
- Dr Eamonn Eeles
- Dr Jack Bell
- Dr Hannah Gullo
- Dr Oystein Tronstad
- Dr Adam Burston
- Professor John Fraser
- Amber Jones

2024 SNAPSHOT

- **Members:** 20
- **Clinical Trials and Studies:** 14
- **Awards/Grants:** 3
- **Publications:** 2

RESEARCH IS CRITICAL FOR EMERGENCY CARE

For many, the Emergency Department (ED) is the first point of hospital contact. Embedding clinical research into everyday ED operations—led by clinicians, nurses, and allied health teams—is vital for innovation, improved outcomes, and evidence-based care.

The ACER Collaborative is truly multidisciplinary, involving nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, child life therapy, and social work, alongside strong links with inpatient teams such as mental health, cardiology, critical care, and respiratory medicine. This breadth ensures research is both clinically relevant and system-wide in impact.

HIGHLIGHTS

Paediatric Leadership

- Paeds with a Wheeze was showcased at the BMJ International Forum, generating global interest.
- Our CLT study provided strong evidence for the role of the child life therapist in improving children's ED experiences.

Post-COVID Capacity

- The Research Odyssey: Restarting the Adventure was presented at the ACEM Annual Scientific Meeting, reflecting on research renewal after the pandemic.

Recognition & Engagement

- ACER was featured in the Emergency Medicine Foundation's Annual Report: Breathing Life Back into Emergency Department Research.

Early Career Success

- Three allied health clinicians received research grants:
  - Two New Investigator Grants (TPCH Foundation)
  - One EMF Emerge Grant

Research is vital to Emergency care—improving outcomes, driving innovation and empowering staff. In 2024, the ACER collaborative led 14 studies, earned international recognition in paediatrics, and supported early career researchers. We are building a future where research is embedded in every aspect of Emergency care—expanding training, deepening partnerships, and ensuring every patient benefits from the latest evidence and innovation.

Advanced Heart Failure and Cardiac Transplant Unit

The unit conducts clinical research to improve the long-term outcomes and care of patients living with heart failure or undergoing heart transplantation. The group is dedicated to transforming care for this complex population.

HEAD OF THE RESEARCH GROUP

- Dr Scott McKenzie

RESEARCH GROUP MEMBERS

- Dr Wandy Chan
- Dr George Javorsky
- Dr. Maryam Bayat
- Maricel Roxas
- Sandra Phillips
- Madelin Jeffs
- Dr James Walsh

2024 SNAPSHOT

- **Members:** 7
- **Clinical Trials and Studies:** 4
- **Awards/Grants:** 1
- **Publications:** 3

RAISING HOPE FOR HEART PATIENTS

Heart failure continues to be a leading cause of hospitalisation in Australia and places a considerable burden on the healthcare system.

Through innovative research, the unit is working to improve early diagnosis, treatment pathways, and post-transplant care with interdepartmental and interdisciplinary partnerships, with the overarching goal of improving both quality of life and long-term outcomes for patients.

HIGHLIGHTS

Heart Failure Diagnosis and Management Innovations

In 2024, the group contributed to several key research initiatives, including:

LASHPEF Study (*Left Atrial Strain during Exercise Stress Echocardiography in the Diagnosis of Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction*) Early findings suggest the parameter tested in this study could provide more accessible diagnoses for HFpEF, expanding availability beyond expert centres. The study's results were presented at the **Annual Scientific Meeting of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand (CSANZ).**

RAHFTS (Rapid Access Heart Failure Therapy Service) is an innovative service to provide access for acute heart failure care and relieving pressure of ED overcrowding. Initial outcome of RAHFTS was presented at CSANZ. Dissemination of extended results is planned for late 2025.

Research Collaboration and Grant Success

Dr Chan extended a high-impact collaborative project—**Microbiome in Transplant and Cellular Therapy Outcomes**—partnering with QIMR Berghofer, TPCH Lung Transplant and Infectious Diseases units, RBWH's Bone Marrow Transplant Unit, and The University of Queensland. This study was awarded a **2023 MRFF Global Health Grant**, supporting investigations into the microbiome's role in post-transplant outcomes and infection risk.

The group's expanding network of collaborations and its integrated approach to care and research continue to improve our understanding of heart failure and transplantation. With cross-institutional partnerships and translational science, the team is advancing personalised care models that offer real hope to patients with severe cardiac disease.

Allied Health Research Collaborative (AHRC)

The Allied Health Research Collaborative focuses on improving patient outcomes for those with complex chronic conditions by reducing hospitalisations and supporting long-term health. Their interdisciplinary research enhances evidence-based clinical practice in both hospital and community settings.

HEAD OF THE RESEARCH GROUP

- Professor Norman Morris

RESEARCH GROUP MEMBERS

- Adjunct Professor Jack Bell
- Dr Hannah Gullo (Research Fellow)
- Associate Professor Peter Lazzarini
- Mr Perry Judd
- Dr Sara Winter
- Dr Michelle Cottrell
- Dr Lisa Franks

2024 SNAPSHOT

- **Members:** 7
- **Clinical Trials and Studies:** 180+
- **Awards/Grants:** 18 awards, 41 grants
- **Publications:** 70+

The 2024 launch of the Allied Health Research Symposium highlighted TPCH's collaborative research, honored four award-winners, and is set to become an annual showcase of impact and innovation.

TOWARDS A REDUCTION IN HOSPITALISATIONS

As the population ages and comorbidities rise, the need for interventions that reduce hospitalisations and promote healthier, more productive lives grows.

The AHRC unites global leaders in allied health research, collaborating across disciplines such as medicine, nursing, physiotherapy, dietetics, occupational therapy, psychology, social work, speech pathology, and podiatry.

Our mission is to translate research into clinical practice, improving outcomes for patients at TPCH, throughout Queensland, and globally.

HIGHLIGHTS

Research Volume and Impact

In 2024, the AHRC led or collaborated on 180+ active projects covering chronic heart and lung diseases, diabetes, aged care, paediatrics, organ transplantation, sleep, and rehabilitation. The team published over 70 peer-reviewed journal articles, many in top-tier international journals. Researchers secured more than $7 million in new grant funding, including support from the NHMRC and MRFF.

Allied Health Research Leadership and Recognition

The establishment of the **TPCH Allied Health Research Coordinator role** led to significant growth, earning the **Research Support Award** at the 2024 TPCH Staff Excellence Awards. **Associate Professor Peter Lazzarini won the Graeme Nielson Award for Best Published Paper** for the second consecutive year- one of four AHRC members honored at the 2024 awards.

Innovative Service Development

The Rapid Access Hands Clinic, led by the Occupational Therapy team, was featured by **Clinical Excellence Queensland** and the ***Courier Mail***. The clinic was also showcased at the 2024 Hand Therapy Association Conference, highlighting its innovative care model.

Research Supervision and Capacity Building

The AHRC supported over 30 higher-degree research students, with three completions in 2024, helping develop the next generation of allied health clinician-researchers.

Anaesthesia Research Group

The Anaesthesia Research Group is dedicated to improving outcomes for all patients undergoing anaesthesia through high-impact, multi-site, and multidisciplinary collaborative research.

Our work spans perioperative medicine, pharmacology, pain control, airway safety, and recovery optimisation, with a focus on innovation, safety, and evidence-based care.

HEAD OF THE RESEARCH GROUP

- Dr Usha Gurunathan

RESEARCH GROUP MEMBERS

- Associate Professor Ivan Rapchuk
- Associate Professor Jonathon Fanning
- Dr Jane Elms
- Dr Chris Stonell
- Dr Sophie Jayamaha
- Associate Professor Dan Mullany
- Dr Maria Adrian
- Dr Matthew Bright
- Dr Thar Lwin
- Dr. Kate Engelke

2024 SNAPSHOT

- **Members:** 11
- **Clinical Trials and Studies:** 5
- **Awards/Grants:** 8
- **Publications:** 30+

ADVANCES IN ANAESTHESIA

Our group conducts innovative research including precision medicine and patient-centred practices to reduce complications, improve patient recovery, and minimise healthcare burdens through shorter hospital stays and fewer readmissions.

HIGHLIGHTS

Research Growth and Recognition

In 2024, we expanded our team with exceptional clinician-researchers, increasing the number of PhD holders to four, with two currently in progress. We also secured **eight competitive research grants**, which have boosted our capacity. To sustain this momentum, securing research administrative support will be crucial for maintaining research as a valued priority within the department.

Landmark Study: ORACLE

A major achievement was the **completion of the ORACLE study**, published in the British Journal of Anaesthesia which demonstrated the importance of optimising drug dosing based on dynamic haematological parameters.

PhD and Project Leadership

Dr Usha Gurunathan leads several research projects as part of her PhD, including:

- A study on the **epidemiology and prevention of thromboembolism**
- A novel **feasibility study on breathing techniques** in urgent cardiac surgery patients (Cardiac SPRINT), in collaboration with TPCH SurgiFIT prehabilitation team

Dr Jane Elms is leading the **Queensland Difficult Airway Alert Project**, analysing key outcomes and guiding statewide improvements in airway management.

Ongoing Quality Improvement

The group continues to lead **quality improvement initiatives** to enhance the safety, efficiency, and satisfaction of anaesthetic care—contributing directly to improved outcomes and service delivery at TPCH and across partner sites.

Research Leadership and Mentorship

We proudly acknowledge the outstanding contributions of **Associate Professor Jonathon Fanning**, towards his research into neurological injury after surgery. Jonathan exemplifies the role of a clinician-scientist and is an advocate of academic anaesthesia.

As clinician-scientists who "do a lot with a little," we are committed to building a vibrant and inclusive research culture that encourages junior doctors to engage in research—ultimately driving meaningful improvements in care for all surgical and perioperative patients.

Cardiothoracic Surgery Research Unit

The Cardiothoracic Surgery Research Unit (CTSRU) focuses on generating high-quality, actionable evidence to advance clinical practice, optimise perioperative care, and deliver better patient outcomes.

Cardiothoracic surgery is rapidly evolving, driven by the need to meet the complex and diverse needs of patients with increasingly sophisticated tools and techniques.

The CTSRU research agenda focuses on advancing surgical practices, improving multidisciplinary care pathways, and implementing new technologies to enhance patient outcomes, recovery and safety across all phases of surgical treatment—preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative.

HEAD OF THE RESEARCH GROUP

- Dr Trevor Fayers and Dr Morgan Windsor

RESEARCH GROUP MEMBERS

Consultants

- Dr Anil Prabhu
- Dr Bruce Thomson
- Dr Dong Kang
- Dr Douglas Wall
- Dr Homayoun Jalali
- Dr Livia Williams
- Dr Lachlan Marshall
- Dr Rishendran Naidoo
- Dr P Pohlner (Emeritus)

Registrars, Clinicians and Support

- Dr Bishwo Shrestha
- Dr Vinod Sharma
- Dr Phillipa Bowers
- Dr Victor Aguirre
- Dr Ayame Ochi
- Dr Lawrence Nair
- Dr Durre Shahwar
- Dr Samad Raza
- Dr William Foot
- Dr Natasha Jeenah
- Dr Khumbulani Mandinyenya
- Dr Bronwyn Pearse
- Ms Susan Smith
- Ms Donalee O'Brien

2024 SNAPSHOT

- **Members:** 25
- **Clinical Trials and Studies:** 6
- **Publications:** 8 articles and 11 abstracts

CTSRU PROJECT OUTCOMES AND HIGHLIGHTS

Guideline Influence: A major achievement was the citation of 2 papers in the 2024 **EACTS/EACTAIC Guidelines** on patient blood management in adult cardiac surgery—a testament to the real-world impact and quality of our work.

Public Health Impact: The study *Rheumatic Fever and Rheumatic Heart Disease: Quantum of Public Awareness as a Tool for Primary Prevention* revealed key gaps in clinical training on acute rheumatic fever prevention. Its findings led to updates in the medical curriculum at **The University of Queensland**, ensuring better preparation for future clinicians.

Collaborative Studies: The team continues partnering with Anaesthetics, Nursing, and Allied Health services to explore **pre-surgical optimisation strategies** which included recruitment for **psychological and emotional wellbeing studies**. Working alongside Cardiology and Infectious Diseases, the group enhanced hospital data collection for the **Australian Infective Endocarditis Registry**, helping to improve identification and understanding of this rare disease. Looking ahead the CTSRU is building collaborative opportunities with the Critical Care Research Group.

Surgical Simulation and Technology Innovation: New projects implementing **technology in cardiac surgery** include planning a trial of innovative sternal closure approaches and **optimisation of simulation training** for **Endoscopic Vein Harvesting**—vital for improving surgical training and EVH uptake. Collaboration with the QUT ACE Lab has been an exciting development in the simulation model development project.

The CTSRU emphasises mentorship and surgical education, equipping the next generation of cardiothoracic surgeons with the tools and evidence base to innovate, continuously elevating clinical care. Through this dual focus on discovery and training, we aim to build a future-ready workforce committed to excellence in surgical outcomes.

The vast disparity in the burden of Acute Rheumatic Fever and Rheumatic Heart Disease between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Queenslanders necessitates an urgent and targeted response from government and communities toward prevention.

PhD Candidate Carl Francia

FEATURED ARTICLE

Carl Francia, PhD candidate

According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 7,192 people were recorded as having Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) on official registers across Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, and the Northern Territory by the end of 2023. Notably, 79 per cent of those affected were First Nations people.

PhD candidate Carl Francia first observed the disproportionate impact of Acute Rheumatic Fever (ARF) and RHD on Indigenous Australians while working as a physiotherapist in the Intensive Care Unit at The Prince Charles Hospital in 2022.

> *"There was a period when we had a very young cohort of patients from across Queensland requiring advanced cardiopulmonary support due to decompensated heart failure caused by RHD,"* said Carl. *"These patients were in their late teens and early twenties, and most were Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, or Māori and Pasifika."*

Carl was struck by the fact that RHD is entirely preventable and has been virtually eliminated in the broader population due to improved living standards.

ARF can develop following a group A streptococcal (Strep A) infection, meaning prevention begins with reducing exposure to these bacteria—particularly in infancy—through better living conditions related to hygiene, overcrowding, and poverty.

> *"If you catch ARF early—at the stage of a throat or skin infection—and treat it with antibiotics, you can prevent it from damaging the heart valves, which would otherwise lead to RHD and the potential need for open-heart surgery,"* Carl explained.

Over the past two years, Carl has been using linked hospital and administrative data to study the epidemiology of ARF and RHD in Queensland. His paper, titled *Incidence and Prevalence of Acute Rheumatic Fever and Rheumatic Heart Disease in Queensland (2017–2021): A Retrospective Data Linkage Study*, was submitted to the Medical Journal of Australia in December 2024.

For the study, Carl created a novel population-level dataset by identifying all individuals under age 45 hospitalised or notified with ARF and those under 55 with RHD. He used linked Queensland-wide hospital, emergency department, mortality, and RHD registry records.

> *"Among people under 45, the age-standardised incidence of first-ever ARF in Indigenous populations was 60.2 times higher than in non-Indigenous populations, 68.6 times higher for total ARF cases, and 18.9 times higher for RHD,"* Carl reported.

He outlined several challenges in diagnosing and treating ARF. The first is that diagnosis is difficult because no definitive test exists.

> *"In my dataset, only 8 per cent of those with RHD had a documented prior diagnosis of ARF,"* he said. *"That means most people aren't being identified early, missing the window for treatment and prevention."*

The second challenge relates to ongoing treatment. Open-heart surgery does not prevent future Strep A infections, and the primary preventative measure—regular intramuscular antibiotic injections—suffers from poor adherence.

> *"These injections, administered every three to four weeks post-surgery, are thick and take about five minutes to deliver. Patients must continue this treatment for a minimum of 10 years or until they reach 40, whichever is longer," Carl said. "That's a heavy treatment burden. Surgery doesn't cure the condition—it only addresses the damage. The underlying autoimmune response remains. If someone continues to get Strep A infections, they're at risk of another ARF episode that can further damage the heart."*

To drive meaningful change, Carl emphasised the urgent need for further research and a coordinated, community-driven prevention strategy.

> *"Indigenous communities and health services in Queensland need access to accurate, disaggregated ARF and RHD data to develop effective, place-based prevention strategies,"* he said. *"We need approaches that address all levels of prevention—primordial and primary—in partnership with communities. If the community doesn't take ownership, the strategies won't succeed."*

Carl added that Queensland Health appears committed to working collaboratively with communities to co-design these solutions.

Cardiology Clinical Research Centre (CCRC)

The Cardiology Clinical Research Centre (CCRC) is one of Australia's largest and most active heart failure and cardiac research centres. With a global outlook and a strong local footprint, CCRC is committed to transforming the future of cardiac care through innovation in clinical trials, diagnostics, and device development.

HEAD OF THE RESEARCH GROUP

- Professor Darren Walters

RESEARCH GROUP MEMBERS

Investigators

- Maricel Roxas (Research Centre Mgr)
- Professor Haris Haqqani
- Professor Gregory Scalia
- Associate Professor Isuru Ranasinghe
- Dr Scott McKenzie
- Dr Russell Denman
- Dr Niranjan Gaikwad
- Dr Karl Poon
- Dr Dale Murdoch
- Dr Rustem Dautov
- Dr Robert Horvath
- Dr Maryam Bayat
- Dr Su Hnin Hlaing
- Dr Naim Mridha
- Dr Kieran Oldfield
- Dr Claire Lynch
- Haunnah Rheault
- Estelle Beevors
- Bo Janoschka
- Megan Mearns
- Irena Rymar
- Suzanne Spencer
- Kathryn Stibijl
- Sandra Phillips
- Bernice Enever
- Gabrielle Regazolli

2024 SNAPSHOT

- **Members:** 27
- **Clinical Trials and Studies:** 60+
- **Publications:** 7

GROUNDBREAKING CARDIAC RESEARCH

As a premier hub for international multicentre trials, the Centre is at the forefront of first-in-human device studies, next-generation therapies, and novel diagnostic strategies—all aimed at improving outcomes for patients living with heart and vascular disease.

CCRC leads clinical research across six key cardiology domains:

- **Interventional Cardiology:** Leading **first-in-human trials** for structural heart disease, including TAVI, Mitral and Tricuspid Clip and Valve technologies, InterAtrial Shunt Devices, and novel coronary stents and balloons.
- **Heart Failure:** Advancing care through clinical trials and pharmacological interventions to improve quality of life and reduce hospitalisations.
- **Infective Endocarditis:** Home to Australia's first **Infective Endocarditis Registry and Biobank**, enabling unprecedented investigation into this high-mortality condition.
- **Hyperlipidemia and Cardiovascular Risk:** Contributing to global efforts in the prevention and management of lipid-related cardiac disease.
- **Electrophysiology:** Driving innovation in rhythm disorder management through pioneering trials, including first-in-human electrophysiological devices.
- **Echocardiography:** Delivering the **CATHARSIS Program**, the world's most comprehensive echocardiography comparative study, advancing non-invasive cardiac diagnostics.

HIGHLIGHTS

CCRC is not only shaping the future of cardiology, but we are also transforming it, with state-of-the-art research driving clinical advancements that benefit patients across the globe.

Among many significant projects, several key highlights stand out:

- **Transcatheter Tricuspid Valve Success (VDYNE Trial):** CCRC's structural heart team successfully performed the VDYNE procedure on three of the first 39 patients worldwide—a breakthrough in minimally invasive treatment for tricuspid regurgitation.

- **Patient Recruitment and Registry Expansion:** Added ~400 patients to clinical trials and registries in 2024, with ~1,700 active patients under longitudinal follow-up or data collection.
- **FINEARTS Trial Participation:** Contributed to the FINEARTS trial, the first major outcomes study assessing Finerenone in heart failure, which led to 10+ international publications, influencing future standards of care.

The CCRC fosters a culture of academic leadership and mentorship. Through hands-on training and guided research opportunities, our experienced investigators are cultivating the next generation of cardiology researchers, ensuring the continuity and expansion of cardiac research excellence at TPCH.

The Cardiovascular Molecular and Therapeutics Translational (CVMT) Research Group

Our group of research scientists and cardiologists are pioneering molecular therapies for fatal arrhythmias and sudden cardiac death.

HEADS OF THE RESEARCH GROUP

- Professor Peter Molenaar
- Associate Professor Haris Haqqani
- Dr Yee Weng Wong

RESEARCH GROUP MEMBERS

- Dr Wandy Chan
- Dr Kafa Walweel
- Dr Melanie Spratt
- Dr M Siriwardena

2024 SNAPSHOT

- **Members:** 7
- **Awards/Grants:** 3
- **Publications:** 3

TOWARDS LIFE-CHANGING ARRHYTHMIA TREATMENTS

Current arrhythmia therapies may reduce symptoms but often fail to address the underlying cause—and in some cases, can even increase the risk of sudden death. Alarmingly, approximately 50% of heart failure patients die within five years of diagnosis, and nearly half of those deaths occur suddenly due to arrhythmias—even among patients who appear clinically stable.

Our group is working to change this. Through innovative molecular and pharmacological research, we aim to develop therapies that directly target the cause of lethal arrhythmias: dysfunctional ryanodine receptors (RyR2) in heart muscle cells that allow calcium to leak and trigger fatal electrical disturbances.

HIGHLIGHTS

Ryanodine Receptor Blockers (RRBs): Building on our foundational work in RyR2 channel dysfunction, we are repurposing the epilepsy drug **phenytoin** as a selective RyR2 channel blocker. In collaboration with medicinal chemists, we are developing enhanced derivatives with improved potency, receptor specificity, and metabolic stability.

PDE3 Activators (PDE3act): Our discovery that PDE3 enzyme activity reduces ventricular arrhythmias—especially in patients on beta-blockers—suggests a synergistic therapeutic opportunity. The potential to combine PDE3act with beta-blockers could represent a breakthrough in heart failure management.

Research Impact and Recognition: In 2024, our team published three peer-reviewed articles, including a chapter in the prestigious *Handbook of Experimental Pharmacology*.

Funding Success: We were awarded two **three-year research fellowships** from The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation for Dr Kafa Walweel and Dr Melanie Spratt, and received approximately **$600,000 in equipment funding**, boosting our research capability.

Capacity Building: One of our PhD candidates completed their thesis in 2024, and several MPhil students progressed to submission, reflecting the group's strong culture of research training and mentorship.

The CVMT Research Group is one of the few labs globally equipped to perform single-channel recordings, a cutting-edge technique that allows us to study RyR2 channels at the molecular level. This places TPCH at the international forefront of research into the root causes of arrhythmias and sudden cardiac death.

Comparative Echocardiographic and Catheterization Hemodynamics Study (CATHARSIS)

The CARTHARSIS Program aims to deliver globally significant innovations in echocardiography through the world's largest ongoing comparative echo study, improving diagnostic accuracy and clinical decision-making for heart patients.

HEADS OF THE RESEARCH GROUP

- Professor Gregory M Scalia

RESEARCH GROUP MEMBERS

- David Platts
- Dr Darryl Burstow
- Dr Vinesh Appadurai
- Dr Stephen Tomlinson
- Dr Pyi Naing
- Dr Paul Wiemers
- Dr Krystal Lander
- Dr Natalie Edwards
- Dr Wandy Chan
- Dr Kathy Lau
- Maricel Roxas
- Bo Janoschka

2024 SNAPSHOT

- **Members:** 13
- **Clinical Trials and Studies:** 25+
- **Publications:** 1+

LEADING THROUGH ECHO

Echocardiography is one of the most widely available, completely non-invasive methods for assessing cardiac structure and function. Over the past 50 years, its evolution has allowed clinicians to answer complex clinical questions that once required costly or invasive testing. This shift has delivered significant benefits for patients, clinicians, and healthcare systems.

The **CATHARSIS program** is at the forefront of this progress, developing novel scanning techniques and calculation methods that push the boundaries of what echocardiography can achieve. In just four years of recruitment, more than 300 high-resolution, protocol-driven echocardiograms have been performed across a diverse patient population. The resulting data has validated current practices, informed new protocols, and generated innovations now in use in echocardiography labs worldwide.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

CATHARSIS outputs are increasingly being embedded into **international guideline-driven quantitative echocardiography**, ensuring they benefit clinicians far beyond TPCH.

The TPCH ECHO lab research group actively contributed to over **25 international studies**, providing advanced transthoracic and transesophageal echocardiography for structural heart interventions and pharmaceutical trials.

Our team played a pivotal role in triage, procedural guidance, and follow-up for **several first-in-human large valve replacements**, including the Vdyne tricuspid valve prosthesis and the Sapien M3 mitral prosthesis. The group also supported recruitment, surveillance, and follow-up for multiple landmark pharmaceutical trials.

A major achievement in 2024 was the completion and publication of "**The LATE score: A novel framework for echocardiographic evaluation of left ventricular filling pressure**" in *International Journal of Cardiology*. This approach may reduce the need for invasive catheterisation to measure intracardiac pressures. Lead author Dr Stephen Tomlinson was awarded his MPhil from Griffith University for this work.

Looking ahead, the group plans to establish an International Echocardiography Core Lab—a centralised resource for banking, assessing, and reporting echocardiograms from global clinical trials of cardiovascular devices and pharmaceuticals. This initiative will place TPCH at the centre of future echocardiographic innovation.

Critical Care Research Group

The Critical Care Research Group (CCRG) is one of Australia's largest multidisciplinary medical research facilities.

CCRG is dedicated to improving survival and recovery outcomes for patients facing life-threatening conditions such as heart disease, lung disease and sepsis.

Through a deep understanding of disease mechanisms and the development of advanced treatment technologies, CCRG's work is helping patients live happier, healthier lives following critical illness.

HEAD OF THE RESEARCH GROUP

- Professor John F Fraser AO

RESEARCH GROUP MEMBERS

- Professor Adrian Barnett
- Dr Adrian Goldsworthy
- Angela Kwagala
- Dr Angelo Milani
- Dr Bara Kubanova
- Dr Barbara Zangerl
- Dr Ben Lloyd
- Caitlin McGrath
- Charles Tenyson
- Christopher Djelovic
- Claire Wilson
- Dr Clayton Semenzin
- Professor David McGiffin
- Dr Dhayananth Kanagarajan
- Dr Dieu Le
- Ellaria Di Fabio
- Dr Eric Wu
- Gabriella Abbate
- Dr Gabrielle Fior
- A/Prof Gianluigi Li Bassi
- Hannah Marrinan
- Henry Wallis
- Dr Hideaki Nonaka
- India Pearse
- Iza Linders
- Dr Jacky Suen
- Dr Jana Smolcova
- Dr Jessica Benitez
- Jinyang Yang
- Dr Johannes Bösch
- Dr Keibun Liu
- Kieran Hyslop
- Kirstie Upton
- Kokoa Fujimaru
- Dr Kota Hoshino
- Lauren Kelly
- Luke Churchill
- Mahé Bouquet
- Margaret Passmore
- Mia Campbell
- Michael Garbutt
- Dr Molly-rose McInerney
- Nanda Vania Qurratu Aini
- Dr Nchafatso Obonyo
- A/Prof Nicole White
- Oystein Tronstad
- Robert Holdsworth
- Ryan Tan
- Dr Sainath Raman
- Sam Zhang
- Dr Sandra Parker
- Sang Huynh
- Sarah Macari
- Simon Forsyth
- Sofia Portadino
- Srirachana Panduru
- Dr Sue Patterson
- Tanya Reynolds
- Dr Taylor Sing
- Thidarut Pidet
- Venkat Prabhakar
- Yichao Zhang
- Zohaib Naheem

2024 SNAPSHOT

- **Members:** 64
- **Clinical Trials and Studies:** >17
- **New Investigator Grants:** 9
- **Collaborative Seed Grant:** 1
- **Innovation Grant:** 1
- **Publications:** 106

IMPROVING CRITICAL CARE OUTCOMES

CCRG operates with a singular mission: to transform the outcomes of critical care patients by pushing the frontiers of medical science. Our work spans organ transplantation, advanced imaging, artificial organ development, sepsis, and precision medicine. Collaboration is central to our ethos, uniting researchers across disciplines and institutions to develop and nurture the next generation of clinician-scientists.

HIGHLIGHTS

Transplant and Cardiac Innovation

The Living Heart Project achieved a breakthrough in donor heart preservation, the first in more than 50 years. By extending donor heart storage times from 4 to over 9 hours using **Hypothermic Oxygenated Perfusion (HOPE)**, the project facilitated a world-first international clinical trial and ushered the technology into clinical practice. HOPE has now become the preferred method for organ preservation, with **~160 successful heart transplants** completed in 2024 using this technique.

Developed a new **Right Heart Assessment protocol** using echocardiography and launched an international clinical trial to assess the accuracy of novel techniques in detecting sepsis-related cardiac dysfunction.

Lung Research and Ultrasound Advances

Completed patient enrolment for the **Lung Ultrasound Project**, which aims to determine if early post-operative lung complications after open-heart surgery can be predicted via imaging. Data analysis is underway to identify predictive trends.

Sepsis and Systems Biology Research

Investigated the **genetic and molecular basis of sepsis tolerance**, including endothelial injury and organ dysfunction (lung, kidney, heart) using in vivo and in vitro models.

CCRG and IMB co-developed an **innovative septic shock model** using intravenous bacterial infusion to better replicate real-world infections.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Professor John Fraser was named one of *The Australian's Top 100 Innovators of 2024*, alongside collaborators **Dr Arutha Kulasinghe** and **A/Prof Kirsty Short**.

Dr Silver Heinsar received **The University of Queensland Dean's Award for Outstanding Higher Degree by Research Thesis**.

PhD conferrals were awarded to **Drs Sing, Dhayananth, Parker, Heinsar and Sato**, recognising outstanding contributions to intensive care research.

CCRG announced a new partnership with Bambino Gesù Women's and Children's Hospital and the Human Fraternity Foundation to support the building of a new hospital and training the next generation clinicians.

CCRG proudly marked its 20-year anniversary in 2024 with a celebration at Queensland Parliament House, hosted by the Hon Shannon Fentiman, former Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women. Among the 200 guests in attendance was a particularly meaningful visitor: Professor Fraser's high school biology teacher, who travelled from Scotland to attend the occasion—a fitting tribute to a legacy of curiosity, mentorship, and scientific advancement.

There's emerging evidence that links poor sleep to the development of dementia – particularly Alzheimer's disease.

Dr Irene Szollosi

FEATURED ARTICLE

Key Indicators of Cognitive Impairment in Patients with Obstructive Sleep Apnoea

People with obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA) often experience fragmented sleep and low oxygen levels (hypoxaemia).

In the short term, this leads to poor sleep quality and daytime fatigue. However, if left untreated, OSA can contribute to a range of long-term health issues. Its full impact is not yet completely understood and is currently being investigated by researchers at The Prince Charles Hospital's Sleep Disorders Centre.

> *"We already know that sleep apnoea affects cognitive function. If you've ever had a poor night's sleep, you'll know how it impairs memory, concentration, and reaction time,"* said Dr Irene Szollosi. *"But untreated sleep apnoea may also have longer-term consequences, potentially increasing the risk of developing dementia and Alzheimer's disease."*

The researchers are working to distinguish between the cognitive effects caused by sleepiness and those caused by neurological damage from hypoxaemia and frequent sleep disruptions.

> *"We know that not everyone with OSA feels sleepy or notices cognitive issues, but a recent data analysis revealed a significant portion of these patients do show signs of cognitive impairment,"* said PhD candidate Thomas Georgeson.

Mr Georgeson led a study titled *Sleep Fragmentation and Hypoxaemia as Key Indicators of Cognitive Impairment in Patients with Obstructive Sleep Apnoea*, which used the Addenbrooke's Cognitive Examination-Revised (ACE-R) – a brief cognitive screening tool – to assess cognitive impairment in older individuals with OSA. The researchers analysed cross-sectional datasets from 89 adults aged 50–85. Results showed that 36% of participants were cognitively impaired (ACE-R score ≤88). The analysis identified a clear association between cognitive impairment and both sleep fragmentation and hypoxaemia, but not daytime sleepiness.

A follow-up study revealed that ACE-R scores improved with consistent use of Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) therapy.

> *"Our findings show that regular use of CPAP therapy results in a small but meaningful improvement in ACE-R scores, especially in memory-related tasks,"* Mr Georgeson explained.

Although cognitive function isn't routinely measured in sleep clinics due to the time involved, Dr Szollosi emphasised the clinical value of using simpler tools like the ACE-R. Demonstrating both the negative impact of OSA and the cognitive improvement with CPAP using a brief test strengthens its utility in real-world settings.

> *"There's been a significant gap in how we assess cognitive function in clinical sleep labs. We still don't fully understand how OSA affects cognition or how quickly these issues resolve with treatment,"* Dr Szollosi said. *"There's also a lack of research into practical outcome metrics focused on cognition for this patient group."*

She noted that the research supports the potential for simplified cognitive tools like the ACE-R to be used more routinely in clinical practice.

> *"Tom's work gives us confidence that brief cognitive assessments can be both valid and clinically useful,"* she said. *"While the field is progressing rapidly, we still need to develop the right tools to evaluate both the short- and long-term effects of OSA, and to understand how effectively CPAP mitigates the risk of cognitive decline."*
>
> Dr Szollosi added, *"We know CPAP can reverse some cognitive impairment caused by OSA, but we also want to investigate whether any residual effects after treatment might predict future dementia."*

Pharmacy Research And Quality Group

The Pharmacy Research and Quality Group is committed to improving the quality use of medicines through innovative clinical pharmacy solutions, quality assurance initiatives, and audit-led practice improvement. Our research promotes the full utilisation of pharmacy clinicians' expertise by encouraging "top of scope" activities. These expanded roles help reduce medication-related harm, improve care continuity, and relieve pressure on the broader healthcare workforce.

HEAD OF THE RESEARCH GROUP

- Erin Dunn

RESEARCH GROUP MEMBERS

- Mika Varitimos
- Jaryth Twine
- James de Veer
- Charlotte Sturgess
- George Ma
- Karen Chan
- Jess Lee
- Cassandra Vale
- Patrick Heberlein
- Michael Williams

2024 SNAPSHOT

- **Members:** 10
- **Clinical Trials and Studies:** 2
- **Publications:** 1

TOWARDS INNOVATIVE CLINICAL PHARMACY SOLUTIONS

A key study from the group demonstrated that hospital patients who received a **comprehensive pharmacist-led medication history, inpatient review, and discharge summary** experienced **fewer unplanned readmissions**—evidence of the crucial role pharmacists play in safe and effective patient care.

HIGHLIGHTS

Clinical Pharmacy Practice Innovation

The group led two important "top of scope" studies in 2024:

- **Pharmacist-Requested Anti-Xa Monitoring for Enoxaparin**: Improved dosing compliance and monitoring, contributing to safer anticoagulant therapy
- **Pharmacist-Partnered Charting in ICU**: Reduced prescribing errors and supported smoother patient transitions from ICU to general wards

Guideline Development and National Standards

TPCH pharmacists contributed as co-authors to two national and international pharmacy guidelines:

- **ISHLT Consensus Statement** on hemocompatibility-related adverse events in patients with continuous-flow ventricular assist devices
- **Advanced Pharmacy Australia Standards of Practice** for palliative care pharmacy services

National Conference Participation

The team was well represented at the **2024 National Medicines Management Conference in Adelaide**, delivering **four oral presentations** and presenting **four posters**, further sharing their insights and outcomes with peers across Australia.

In 2024, the Pharmacy Research and Quality Group began exploring how artificial intelligence (AI) could support the department in handling non-clinical administrative tasks—freeing up more time for pharmacists to focus on direct patient care and high-value clinical activities.

Core Thoracic Research Group

The Core Thoracic Research Group investigates the diagnosis, treatment, and multidisciplinary management of a wide range of common thoracic conditions. With a strong focus on collaborative allied health and nursing interventions, the group brings a patient-centred approach to improving care and outcomes in diseases such as COPD, asthma, bronchiectasis, and pneumonia.

HEAD OF THE RESEARCH GROUP

- Associate Professor Philip Masel

RESEARCH GROUP MEMBERS

- John Cameron
- Rekha Hakim
- Daniel Smith
- Megan France
- Hayley Gunn
- Tracy Tse
- Liz Pardede
- Joanne Vincent

2024 SNAPSHOT

- **Members:** 8
- **Clinical Trials and Studies:** 2

TOWARDS BETTER CARE FOR THORACIC PATIENTS

The group's multidisciplinary composition—including occupational therapists, physiotherapists, dietitians, social workers, pharmacists, respiratory trainees, and ENT specialists—enables the development of innovative research that reflects the complexity and real-world needs of patients.

> **Our projects are guided by a clear commitment to improving clinical outcomes and quality of life. We also ensure that our research knowledge is transferred through ongoing training and mentorship of junior clinicians and researchers.**

HIGHLIGHTS

National Engagement and Collaboration

In 2024, Associate Professor Philip Masel chaired a high-impact symposium on **Small Airways Disease** at the TSANZSRS Conference on the Gold Coast. The event stimulated strong international interest and debate, highlighting the need for further research in this emerging area. Importantly, it initiated a formal collaboration with the University of Melbourne team and led to our group joining the internationally recognised **Tasmanian Longitudinal Health Study**.

Bronchiectasis Research

We are trialling **emerging alternative therapies** for bronchiectasis, a chronic condition with complex and heterogeneous presentations. These studies aim to define subtypes of disease more precisely and personalise therapeutic interventions.

COPD Phenotyping and Treatment Personalisation

Current COPD research focuses on **individual disease mechanisms**, with the goal of tailoring treatment to the underlying drivers in each patient. This approach represents a significant shift towards precision medicine in respiratory care.

In 2024, a multidisciplinary cough clinic was proactively established by the group's speech pathologist. This service provides a comprehensive and integrated model of care for patients with chronic cough—a condition that is often multifactorial and challenging to manage. The clinic exemplifies the group's commitment to innovation, collaboration, and holistic patient assessment.

Cystic Fibrosis Research Group

The CFRG aims to improve the health and well-being of people with cystic fibrosis and other chronic lung diseases.

HEAD OF THE RESEARCH GROUP

- Dr Daniel Smith

RESEARCH GROUP MEMBERS

Cystic Fibrosis Group

- Professor Scott Bell
- Dr Phil Masel
- Assoc. Professor David Reid
- Dr Daniel Henderson
- Dr Shanal Kumar
- Dr Ieuan Evans
- Dr Monica Wagenaar
- Michelle Wood
- Iain Smith
- Keirran Hiscock
- Felicity Loel
- Vanessa Moore
- Tracy McMahon
- Andrea Lacey
- Angela Matson
- Karen Herd
- Kathleen Hall
- Nicci Muggeridge
- Robyn Cobb
- Jennifer Bingham
- Suzette Fox
- Mihaela Ionescu
- Julieta Castellini
- Kathryn MacMorran
- Dr Graeme Mattison
- Dr George Tay
- Dr Andrew Burke
- Dr Emma Ledger
- Dr Lisa Jurak

Lung Bacteria Group

- Professor Scott Bell (Co-lead)
- Professor Rachel Thomson (Co-lead)
- Dr Christine Duplancic
- Dr George Tay
- Ms Kim Smith
- Ms Robyn Carter

Lung Inflammation And Infection Lab

- Assoc. Professor David Reid (Lead)
- Dr Ama Tawiah-Essilfie
- Dr Pramila Maniam
- Amali Fernando

2024 SNAPSHOT

- **Members:** 37
- **Clinical Trials and Studies:** 17
- **Awards/Grants:** 3 awards
- **Publications:** 4

LIVING BETTER WITH CYSTIC FIBROSIS

Once considered a childhood disease, cystic fibrosis (CF) is now a chronic condition increasingly managed into adulthood. Advances in treatment have dramatically improved survival and quality of life, but challenges remain. Life expectancy remains below the national average, and 10% of patients are unable to access or tolerate currently available therapies. Moreover, aging with CF introduces new clinical complexities.

Our research seeks to address these challenges through deeper understanding of infection, inflammation, and microbial resistance in CF. By integrating novel technologies and precision medicine into clinical care, we aim to optimise therapies and improve outcomes for people living with CF and other lung diseases.

HIGHLIGHTS

Clinical and Translational Research

The group led or contributed to **17 research projects**, including the **NHMRC-funded National *NTM in CF* study**.

Impact on Policy and Public Health

Research from the endocrine team directly informed a submission to the **Parliamentary Health and Aged Care Inquiry into Diabetes**, contributing to the landmark report *The State of Diabetes Mellitus in Australia in 2024*.

Recognition and Awards:

- **Professor Scott Bell** received the **European Cystic Fibrosis Society Lifetime Achievement Award** at the ECFS 2024 conference in Glasgow.
- **Dr Ieuan Evans** was named **TPCH Researcher of the Year**.
- The CFRG was honoured with the **TPCH Research Partnership Award** in recognition of its exemplary interdisciplinary collaboration.

The CFRG continues to be a national and global leader in multidisciplinary CF research, integrating microbiology, respiratory medicine, genomics, and public health to drive meaningful advances in care. The group's strong collaborative culture ensures sustained contributions to both the scientific community and the lives of people living with CF.

Health Services and Outcomes Research Program

The Health Services and Outcomes Research Program conducts multidisciplinary research into the real-world impacts of hospital care practices, with the goal of improving healthcare delivery, policy, and patient outcomes. Our work focuses on identifying what is working well, where gaps remain, and how health systems can evolve to provide safer, more effective, and patient-centred care.

HEAD OF THE RESEARCH GROUP

- Associate Professor Isuru Ranasinghe

RESEARCH GROUP MEMBERS

- Dr Linh Ngo
- Dr Maryam Khorramshahi Bayat
- Ms Trang Dang
- Mr Quan Li

2024 SNAPSHOT

- **Members:** 8
- **Clinical Trials and Studies:** 9
- **Awards/Grants:** 2
- **Publications:** 8

IMPROVING PATIENT OUTCOMES

Our research examines the outcomes of hospital-based care, with a focus on safety, effectiveness, and cost-efficiency. By analysing large-scale health data, we assess how well evidence-based practices are implemented and whether they translate into improved health for patients.

A key objective of the program is to generate actionable insights that inform both clinical decision-making and health policy—particularly in the area of **cardiovascular services**. Our work supports continuous improvement in care quality, optimising the value and sustainability of hospital services

HIGHLIGHTS

Major Projects

In 2024, the program led nine major investigations spanning multiple aspects of health systems research, including: **Leveraging Big Data to Inform Nationwide Cardiovascular Health Outcomes, SAFER Hospitals: Safety, Effectiveness of care and Resource use across Australian hospitals** and **Medication-Related Severe Adverse Events: Developing national surveillance and prevention strategies using real-world clinical data.**

Research Outputs and Recognition

Our group published eight peer-reviewed articles, with studies on **acute coronary syndrome, heart failure, and atrial fibrillation** appearing in top-tier journals including: *European Heart Journal, Medical Journal of Australia* and *International Journal of Cardiology: Heart & Vasculature*

Two of these studies—led by **Ms Trang Dang** and **Dr Linh Ngo**—received media coverage both in Australia and internationally. Notably, Ms Dang's study on the **cost of Heart Failure readmissions** was the first of its kind in Australia, offering new insights into healthcare efficiency and system design.

Funding Success

The program secured two major funding grants in 2024:

- An **NHMRC Ideas Grant**
- A **TPCH Foundation Innovation Grant**

These awards support ongoing innovation and capacity building across our research streams.

Mentorship and Collaboration

We were pleased to host a cohort of **Doctor of Medicine** and **Bachelor of Health Science** students for research placements, and acknowledge their contributions to the program's success. We also recognise **Dr Ruturaj Vaidya** for his leadership in collaborative **infective endocarditis** outcomes research within our program.

Our team welcomed Mr Quan Li, an epidemiologist from China, who joined us to work on the SAFER Hospitals Project. His research focuses on the national burden of diabetes-related hospitalisations and complications, strengthening the program's capacity to address chronic disease outcomes at a population level.

QUT Medical Engineering Research Facility (MERF)

Our facility aims to support healthcare researchers, develop practitioner skills, and create ethical, accessible healthcare technologies that improve patient care.

HEADS OF THE RESEARCH GROUP

- Professor Cameron Brown (Director)
- Dr Roland Steck (Operations Manager)

2024 SNAPSHOT

- **Members:** 12+
- **Clinical Trials and Studies:** 19
- **Publications:** 17

ENGINEERING BETTER CARE

The Medical Engineering Research Facility (MERF) plays a pivotal role in advancing medical devices, implants, biomaterials, surgical equipment, and intervention techniques. Through specialised laboratory and theatre facilities, MERF delivers practitioner training that enhances surgical skills, promotes innovation, and improves patient safety and procedural efficiency.

MERF also supports healthcare researchers by providing unique access to large animal models, the QUT Body Donation Program, and the university's wider technology and expertise. In parallel, MERF conducts its own internal research, developing innovative materials and technologies in an ethical, accessible way to contribute to a healthier future.

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2024, more than **250 healthcare professionals** enhanced their skills through MERF-led workshops. The facility hosted **64 surgical and anatomical skills workshops** across diverse fields, including robotic surgery, trauma, plastic surgery, orthopaedics, gynaecology, paramedicine, and general surgical anatomy. These programs directly improve clinical practice while generating research insights into skills development, anatomy, surgical techniques, and new technologies.

MERF supported **19 research projects** this year, spanning preclinical studies for critical care interventions, surgical microrocket development, and quantum ultrasonics.

Seventeen publications arose from MERF-supported work in 2024, including a high-impact collaboration with the **University of Oxford**. This project developed a multiphasic mathematical model of cartilage, culminating in J.P. Whiteley et al.'s paper, "*Sensitivity of cartilage mechanical behaviour to spatial variations in material properties" (Journal of the Mechanical Behaviour of Biomedical Materials)*.

Beyond human health, MERF contributes to wildlife conservation. Chlamydia is a significant threat to koalas, and MERF successfully tested a novel **delayed-release chlamydia** vaccine implant developed by Professors Ken Beagley, Tim Dargaville, and Dr Freya Russell. This innovation combines the primary vaccination and booster into a single treatment, enabling koalas to remain in the wild. Following successful trials at MERF, **Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary** has begun rolling out the technology to its koala population.

While MERF conducts its own research and development, its primary mission is to enable and amplify the research of others—offering unique facilities, expertise, and collaborative opportunities to drive innovation in healthcare and beyond.

Infective Endocarditis Queensland (ieQ)

The mission of the Infective Endocarditis Queensland (ieQ) Research Group is to improve outcomes for patients through advancing the diagnosis, management, and prevention of infective endocarditis (IE). The group achieves this through multidisciplinary collaboration, research leadership, and education.

CO-CHAIRS OF THE RESEARCH GROUP

- Dr. Robert Horvath
- Dr. Yong Shen Wee
- Dr John Sedgwick
- Dr Mbakise P Matebele

RESEARCH GROUP MEMBERS/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Dr Alex Chaudhuri
- Dr David Godbolt
- Dr Livia Williams
- Dr Lachlan Murdoch
- Dr Kanthi Vemuri
- Dr Kathryn Colebourne
- Dr Peter Pohlner
- Dr Al Alghamry
- Dr Joseph Lee
- Professor Greg Scalia
- Professor Isuru Ranasinghe
- Mrs Maricel Roxas
- Mr Bo Janoschka
- Mrs Suzanne Spencer
- Ms Cassandra Vale

2024 SNAPSHOT

- **Members:** 18

NATIONAL IMPACT ON INFECTIVE ENDOCARDITIS

TPCH treats approximately 60–80 patients with infective endocarditis each year. This makes TPCH one of the leading centres in Australia for IE management, and ieQ one of the most active research groups focused on IE.

HIGHLIGHTS

Biobank Expansion and Research Integration

The **ieQ Biobank** reached a major milestone in 2024, surpassing 100 recruited participants. It is now being utilised as a foundation for molecular sepsis research nationally. Building on this success, a **tri-state endocarditis biobank** (QLD/NSW/VIC) is in development, adopting the ieQ protocol as its framework.

Formation of Research Sub-Groups

Two major research collaborations were launched:

- **ACE (Australasian Collaboration in Endocarditis)**: Focused on developing a **national endocarditis registry** to improve data quality, reduce selection bias, detect epidemiological trends, and benchmark care across Australia. ACE also hosted the **first international endocarditis symposium** in October 2024.
- **QFIG (Q Fever Interest Group):** Dedicated to comprehensive research on Q fever, including its chronic and pregnancy-associated forms. QFIG is developing a **national Q fever endocarditis biobank**, with TPCH as the central repository. The group will host its **first international symposium** in Byron Bay in June 2025.

New Study Launch: DEEP

In 2024, ieQ received **regulatory approval** for the **DEEP Study**—a pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic pilot study examining **beta-lactam exposure targets** in patients with deep-seated bacterial infections. This observational study is expected to inform antimicrobial dosing strategies and improve outcomes in complex infections.

Research Outputs

Group members presented at national and international scientific meetings and contributed to publications in peer-reviewed journals.

ieQ is contributing to a global movement to advance understanding and care of infective endocarditis and Q fever. The success of our collaborations across Australia has catalysed expanded partnerships with Europe and Asia, enhancing our role as a regional leader in endocarditis and sepsis research.

Trikafta has transformed the lives of people with Cystic Fibrosis—not just in terms of clinical outcomes but also quality of life, which is significantly better than it was previously. However, Trikafta does come with potentially serious side effects—some more concerning than others.

Dr Ieuan Evans

FEATURED ARTICLE

TPCH Researcher of the Year, Dr Ieuan Evans

Currently, at least 85 per cent of people living with Cystic Fibrosis (pwCF) are eligible for the medication Trikafta® (elexacaftor/tezacaftor/ivacaftor), which became available through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) in Australia in 2022.

It is anticipated that this will increase up to 90 per cent soon. While Trikafta has significantly improved clinical outcomes and quality of life for many, there is still much to learn about its side effects and how it interacts with other medications. As a result, Thoracic Physician Dr Ieuan Evans is working to develop a Therapeutic Drug Monitoring (TDM) program specifically for Trikafta.

Dr Evans explained that existing data on the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics (PK/PD) of the three components of Trikafta—elexacaftor, tezacaftor, and ivacaftor—is limited for pwCF.

> *"For certain individuals, it's hard to know if we're dosing them correctly, especially when adjustments are needed due to side effects, comorbidities, or other medications,"* Dr Evans said. *"TDM could enable precision-guided therapy that reduces toxicity while maximising clinical benefit."*

Despite its promise, many unanswered questions remain.

> *"We have patients who had to stop Trikafta temporarily and then restart it at a lower or gradually increasing dose. But we don't know if that reintroduction provides therapeutic benefit or merely exposes them to side effects with limited gains,"* he said. *"Some patients take medications such as immunosuppressants that potentially interact with Trikafta, with others needing dose adjustments because of liver toxicity – but do these types of dose reduction mean they are getting enough of the drug to see a significant benefit?"*

Dr Evans also raised questions about whether other cystic fibrosis treatments should be reduced or discontinued after starting Trikafta.

> *"We simply don't know if that's the right course of action yet," he added.*

Dr Evans and his collaborators are using NATA-accredited assays, developed by Pathology Queensland, to establish the TDM program.

This involves taking blood samples from pwCF to measure the levels of all three Trikafta components. Although the program is still in development, it has been applied in isolated clinical cases, including one published in the paper: *The complexities of elexacaftor/tezacaftor/ivacaftor therapeutic drug monitoring in a person with cystic fibrosis and Mycobacterium abscessus pulmonary disease*.

In that case, the patient was undergoing complex antibiotic treatment for Mycobacterium abscessus, including rifabutin and clofazimine. These drugs raised concerns about altered hepatic metabolism of Trikafta. Blood testing confirmed that these medications lowered the concentrations of all three components of Trikafta. Nonetheless, the patient showed significant clinical improvement, highlighting the complex and often unpredictable nature of drug interactions and the need for better understanding of how blood levels correlate with treatment outcomes.

> *"This case demonstrated both the potential value of TDM in guiding therapy and the pressing need for more data on how drug-to-drug interactions or dose modifications affect efficacy,"* said Dr Evans.

Beyond Trikafta, Dr Evans also contributes to research through his work across the hospital's general thoracic service, Adult Cystic Fibrosis Centre, and non-tuberculous mycobacterial service. His research particularly focuses on bronchiectasis and the treatment of Mycobacterium abscessus.

> *"My PhD research aimed to optimise treatment options for Mycobacterium abscessus, a growing concern in pwCF and individuals with bronchiectasis,"* he explained. *"During my PhD, we developed a nebulised acidified nitrate solution that completely eradicated the bacteria in vitro. It outperformed any combination of antibiotics I had previously tested."*

Although translating lab success into clinical practice is always challenging, the solution performed well in a mouse model in the United States and has since entered a clinical trial to assess its potential in human patients.

> *"To have something go from a lab experiment during my PhD to a clinical trial exceeded all my expectations,"* Dr Evans said.

Internal Medicine & Dementia Research Unit (IMDRU)

The Internal Medicine & Dementia Research Unit (IMDRU) is dedicated to conducting high-quality clinical research aimed at discovering new treatments—and ultimately, a cure—for dementia.

As the only unit of its kind in Queensland, IMDRU provides essential opportunities for people living with dementia to participate in trials of novel therapies, while also contributing to the global understanding of this devastating disease.

HEADS OF THE RESEARCH GROUP

- Dr Chrys Pulle MBBS FRACP

RESEARCH GROUP MEMBERS

- Dr Gurudev Kewalram
- Dr Lucy Dakin
- Dr Carolina Ling
- Dr Benignus Logan
- Dr Nelson Lee
- Dr Sarah Fox
- Ms Katrina Brosnan
- Ms Margaret Morton
- Ms Maureen Morgan
- Mr Wayne Brady
- Ms Amy Gilbert
- Ms Laura White
- Ms Robyn Riley
- Mr Andrew Trotter
- Ms Lisa Goldsmith
- Ms Rebecca Greenwood
- Ms Caroline Logan
- Ms Natasha Bhan
- Mr Roger Penfound
- Ms Sonia Brocchi

NEW FRONTIERS IN DEMENTIA CARE

There is currently no cure for dementia, and effective, affordable treatments remain elusive. Since its establishment in 1998, IMDRU has led more than 45 international pharmaceutical randomised clinical trials in pursuit of new therapeutic options.

As Queensland's only specialist dementia clinical trial unit, IMDRU plays a vital role in enabling access to experimental treatments for patients and their families. Our research helps to expand knowledge, improve care, and bring hope to individuals affected by dementia.

HIGHLIGHTS

Pharmaceutical Clinical Trials

In 2024, IMDRU conducted several pharmaceutical trials investigating potential new therapies for dementia. These included trials exploring:

- **Monoclonal antibodies**
- **GLP-1 (glucagon-like peptide-1) agents**

These trials contribute to clinician knowledge, inform future therapeutic development, and help benchmark best practices for translational dementia research.

Arts-Based Interventions

We continued to support patient wellbeing through innovative non-pharmacological approaches:

- The **Gallery of Modern Art's award-winning Art and Dementia Program** offers a personalised gallery experience that supports psychosocial wellbeing for people with younger-onset dementia and their care partners.
- **Sing Sing Sing**, a community choir for people living with dementia and their families, promotes engagement, connection, and joy through music.

These projects reflect our commitment to holistic, patient-centred research that addresses both the medical and psychosocial dimensions of dementia.

Patient and Public Engagement

We take pride in our reputation as a research site that champions **patient-focused initiatives**, meaningful **participant engagement**, and respectful, inclusive care experiences for both patients and study partners.

IMDRU consists of a diverse mix of professionals with many demands on our time, but we're united in our passionate commitment to this often-challenging area of research, and we celebrate and value the contribution of each and every member.

Internal Medicine Services Research Committee

The Internal Medicine Services (IMS) Research Committee is a key contributor to clinician-led research at The Prince Charles Hospital. Through expert guidance, robust governance, and strategic oversight, the committee ensures that research within IMS is integrated, ethical, and impactful in advancing values-based care.

HEADS OF THE RESEARCH GROUP

- Dr. Eamonn Eeles
- Dr. Chrys Pulle

RESEARCH GROUP MEMBERS

- Dr Lucy Dakin
- Dr Ling Lan
- Ms Susan Manion
- Ms Rachael Williams
- Dr Jack Bell
- Ms Margaret Morton
- Mr Kevin Clark
- Dr Kristy Rogan
- Ms Laura White
- Dr James Stevenson
- Ms Elise Power

2024 SNAPSHOT

- **Members:** 13
- **Clinical Trials and Studies:** 7
- **Awards/Grants:** 2 Grants
- **Publications:** 14

EMPOWERING CLINICIAN-LED RESEARCH

The IMS Research Committee actively engages clinicians at every stage of the research process from idea generation to publication by reducing participation barriers and providing practical support. This fosters a dynamic research culture in Internal Medicine, where clinician-led research delivers high-quality, evidence-based care. Empowering our clinical teams as research leaders delivers continuous improvements in patient outcomes and satisfaction.

HIGHLIGHTS

Dementia and Delirium: Leading the Way

In 2024, IMS identified non-pharmacological strategies for managing dementia and delirium as its main priority.

Key Projects

- **Innovative Screening**: Proof-of-principle studies trialled new delirium screening tools.
- **Implementation Studies**: A world-first diagnostic support tool for delirium is now well integrated into routine care.
- **Integrative Approaches**: Foundational work on individualised music therapy as a supportive intervention for patients with dementia and delirium.

Grant-Funded Research

- **Emergency Edge**: A collaborative grant from TPCHF with the Emergency Department to advance delirium screening in emergency settings.
- **Next-Gen Diagnostics**: A Perpetual Foundation grant to develop and test a new suite of consciousness tools including a cutting-edge language model for delirium characterisation, ready for clinical validation.

Research Collaborations

- **Sterling's Dream**: Continuing partnership with CSIRO for the next phase of advanced dementia imaging, leveraging (Fluoroethoxybenzovesamicol) FEOBV tracers.

Internal Recognition

- **Bursary Support**: The Cognitive Assessment and Management Unit's multidisciplinary team received a $1,000 IMS Research committee bursary to drive further research into non-pharmacological interventions for hospital inpatients with delirium and dementia.

In 2024, the IMS Research Committee partnered with the HELIX innovation hub to explore robotic technologies for managing dementia and delirium, reflecting a shared commitment to enhancing patient care through innovation.

Medical Imaging and Richard Slaughter Centre of Excellence Imaging Research Groups

Our goal is to develop and implement state-of-the-art imaging techniques that improve the efficiency, accuracy, and effectiveness of clinical care at The Prince Charles Hospital and beyond.

HEAD OF THE RESEARCH GROUP

- Dr Rachael O'Rourke

RESEARCH GROUP MEMBERS

- Dr Anthony Litzow
- Dr Allan Wesley
- Dr Harsh Kandpal
- Mr Damien Thomas
- Mr Andrew Trotter
- Ms Katrina O'Keefe
- Mr Chris Gilmore
- Dr Brendon May
- Dr Nick Brown
- Dr Joseph Lee
- Ms Kara McDonald
- Dr Han Lau

2024 SNAPSHOT

- **Members:** 13
- **Clinical Trials and Studies:** 15
- **Publications:** 6

INNOVATION IN MEDICAL IMAGING

Medical imaging is integral to almost every aspect of modern patient care—and demand is increasing in both volume and complexity. Innovations such as **AI-assisted analysis, photon-counting CT, parametric MRI, and advanced post-processing techniques** are transforming diagnostic capabilities. These advancements, however, also bring the challenge of maintaining up-to-date, efficient imaging services with a limited workforce.

Our research program focuses on developing and implementing **cutting-edge imaging techniques** that improve diagnostic performance, streamline workflows, and support evidence-based care. Through collaboration with clinicians across multiple specialties, we aim to ensure imaging remains a powerful and sustainable pillar of healthcare delivery.

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2024, the group led or supported over **15 research projects** spanning diverse clinical areas. Key initiatives included:

- Serving as the **lead imaging site for the Australian Lung Screening Trial**
- Advancing **cardiovascular imaging**, including **4D flow studies** for post-PEARS and congenital heart disease
- Evaluating **CT pulmonary angiography (CTPA)** use in patients with pulmonary hypertension
- Supporting clinical research into **novel dementia therapies** via advanced neuroimaging
- Partnering with orthopaedics to study **genicular artery embolisation** as a bridging intervention for knee replacement surgery

PUBLICATIONS

Our research team contributed to six peer-reviewed publications in 2024, including:

- *Imaging and Surveillance of Chronic Aortic Dissection: Current Practice and Future Directions*
- *Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging in Systemic Sclerosis: Heart Involvement in High-Resolution*
- *Sublingual Glyceryl Trinitrate During Adenosine Sestamibi Myocardial Perfusion Imaging: Transient Ischaemic Dilation in a Propensity-Matched Analysis*

These publications demonstrate the group's impact in enhancing disease detection, validating novel imaging biomarkers, and supporting clinical decision-making across cardiovascular, neurological, and musculoskeletal conditions.

In addition to leading independent research, the Medical Imaging team proudly collaborates with clinical teams across the hospital, providing essential imaging expertise that underpins many of TPCH's most impactful studies. From trial design and imaging protocol development to data acquisition and interpretation, our work supports the success of multidisciplinary research aimed at improving patient care.

Network for Orthopaedic and Fracture Education and Research (NOFEAR)

NOFEAR is delivering better care and outcomes for older patients with fragility fractures through innovative, interdisciplinary clinical research.

HEADS OF THE RESEARCH GROUP

- **Conjoint Leaders:** Dr Chrys Pulle, Adjunct Professor Jack Bell, Dr Alisa Crouch, Associate Professor Catherine McDougall

RESEARCH GROUP MEMBERS

- Dr Anthony Silva
- Dr Simon Perkins
- Professor Ross Crawford
- Dr Ivan Rapchuk
- Dr Sophie Jayamaha
- Alex Maltby
- Dr Usha Gurunathan
- Jan Martin
- Rebecca Ferrier

2024 SNAPSHOT

- **Members:** 13
- **Clinical Trials and Studies:** 7
- **Awards/Grants:** 1
- **Publications:** 7

TRANSFORMING HIP FRACTURE CARE THROUGH INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

NOFEAR is a leading orthogeriatric research group dedicated to advancing the care of frail, older adults with hip fractures and orthopaedic injuries.

Formed alongside the establishment of The Prince Charles Hospital's Hip Fracture Unit in 2010, our group takes a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach that integrates research, clinical innovation, and implementation science.

Our research has consistently demonstrated that high-efficacy randomised controlled trials (RCTs) are often limited in their effectiveness for this vulnerable cohort. By shifting towards more pragmatic, implementation-focused study designs, we have improved real-world outcomes, influenced best-practice guidelines, and helped shape models of care both in Australia and internationally.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Australia & New Zealand Hip Fracture Registry (ANZHFR):** NOFEAR expanded its partnership with ANZHFR, contributing to three active or recently published studies focused on improving various aspects of hip fracture care.
- **Global Nutrition Leadership – SIMPLER Pathway:** Adjunct Professor Jack Bell led an international team of experts, in collaboration with the University of Iceland and the Fragility Fracture Network (FFN), to implement the **SIMPLER Nutrition Pathway** for inpatients with fragility fractures. Originating from NOFEAR-led research, SIMPLER has now been adopted by **22 hospitals** in countries including **Australia, Iceland, Norway, and the UK**, reinforcing NOFEAR's global leadership in interdisciplinary nutrition interventions for orthogeriatric patients.
- **Publication and Citation Excellence:** Over the past five years, NOFEAR members have co-authored **more than 200 peer-reviewed publications with i10-index scores**, reflecting consistent citation and impact. In 2024, the group sustained a strong publication output aligned with its diverse research interests.

NOFEAR researchers continue to shape the future of orthogeriatric care through national leadership and international partnerships. In 2024, Dr Alisa Crouch and Dr Chrys Pulle were recognised by the Australia and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) with the awarding of a Chapter of Perioperative Medicine, while members remained integral to the leadership of the ANZHFR.

Orthopaedic/Osteoarthritis Research Group

Our aim is to advance knowledge and improve orthopaedic patient outcomes through high-quality research, innovation, and the development of new treatments and techniques.

HEAD OF THE RESEARCH GROUP

- Anthony Silva

RESEARCH GROUP MEMBERS

- Alex Wu
- Andrew Patten
- Bill Donnelly
- Catherine McDougall
- Clifford Afoakwah
- Craig Hughes
- David Fraser
- Dinesh Sharma
- Emily Omahen
- Eric Donaldson
- Greg Poyser
- Helena Franco
- Hugh English
- James Brown
- Jared Walker
- Jeremy Day
- Jessica Daley
- Julie Vermeir
- Kristopher Law
- Louise Tuppin
- Luca Daniele
- Mark Henderson
- Matthew Holt
- Miran Stubican
- Owen O'Neil
- Pat O'Connor
- Phil Rowell
- Rebecca Ferrier
- Robert Barbin
- Robert Dewar
- Ross Crawford
- Siddharth Padmanabhan
- Simon Perkins
- Taz Zaman
- Tom Townson
- Yvana Toh

2024 SNAPSHOT

- **Members:** 37
- **Clinical Trials and Studies:** 9
- **Publications:** 17

FOCUS ON ORTHOPAEDIC ROBOTICS

The Orthopaedic/Osteoarthritis Research Group began as a small collective committed to building a strong research culture within The Prince Charles Hospital's Orthopaedic Department.

Over the years, it has evolved into a large, multidisciplinary network of surgeons, allied health professionals, and researchers, united by a shared goal—improving patient outcomes through evidence-based innovation.

Our bi-monthly research meetings have become a hub for generating new ideas, sharing data, and fostering collaborations. This environment has enabled rapid growth in both the scope and number of research projects, particularly in the field of orthopaedic robotics. Our work is helping refine surgical decision-making, reduce complication rates, and enhance recovery for patients undergoing joint replacement surgery.

HIGHLIGHTS

The past year was exceptionally productive, with **seven projects receiving HREC approval** and three further projects submitted.

Robotics in arthroplasty featured prominently, with two major studies submitted in 2024:

- *A Comparison of Outcomes in Robotic-Arm Assisted Versus Non-Robotic Total Knee Arthroplasty*
- *Express versus Enhanced Workflow in Robotic-Assisted Total Hip Arthroplasty*

Among the six HREC-approved projects were:

- *A Comparison of Outcomes in Robotic-Arm Assisted Versus Non-Robotic Total Hip Arthroplasty*
- *Balance of Robotic Total Knee Replacement Before and After Medial Osteophyte Removal*
- *Biochemical Analysis of CoCr in Patients Following Hinged Total Knee Replacement with Metal-on-Metal or Metal-on-Polyethylene Components*

In 2024, members published **17 peer-reviewed papers** spanning diverse clinical topics, from revision hip surgery techniques to the biochemical effects of metal implants.

The group has rapidly developed strong national and international collaborations, including partnerships with St Vincent's Private Hospital Northside, The University of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology, Stryker, and Halifax. These relationships continue to drive innovation in orthopaedic research and enhance the global impact of our work.

Metro North Mental Health (The Prince Charles Hospital)

Our research group aims to advance mental health care through innovative research and ensure rapid integration of evidence into clinical practice.

HEAD OF THE RESEARCH GROUP

- A/Prof Kylie Burke, Director, Research Strategy and Evaluation
- A/Prof Stephen Parker, Director Research
- Dr Magdalena Hagn, Research Psychiatrist

2024 SNAPSHOT

- **Members:** 3
- **Publications:** 30+

A FOCUS ON HEALTH CARE IMPACT IN MENTAL HEALTH

With the demand for mental health care continuing to rise, innovation in service delivery—in hospitals, community settings, and primary care—is essential. The ability of health services to generate and apply knowledge directly influences the experiences and outcomes of people using our services, their families, carers, and support networks, while also supporting the wellbeing of staff.

Backed by dedicated research funding, the Metro North Mental Health (MNMH) research team at TPCH develops cutting-edge innovation and works alongside clinicians to translate findings into practice. This ensures patients benefit from the latest evidence and staff are empowered to deliver best-practice care.

HIGHLIGHTS

MNMH research continues to have **national and international impact**, informing both best practice and emerging approaches. Staff delivered invited presentations on diverse topics, including:

- The role of artificial intelligence in medical education
- Best practice in mental health rehabilitation
- The role of parents and parenting in severe mental illness

A major focus remains **mental health crisis reform**. The **Crisis Stabilisation Unit Evaluation**—a key project—examines the outcomes and user experience of a novel crisis support unit that successfully diverts people away from the Emergency Department, providing timely, tailored intervention in a less acute environment.

The group's research productivity is reflected in more than **30 peer-reviewed publications** in 2024, spanning a wide range of mental health topics.

Selected examples include:

- Brandenburg C. et al., "'Luck of the draw really': A qualitative exploration of Australian trainee doctors' experiences of mandatory research," *BMC Medical Education*
- Eeles E. et al., "A narrative review of the development and performance characteristics of electronic delirium-screening tools," *Australian Critical Care*

Special congratulations go to **A/Prof Stephen Parker**, awarded a **Metro North Clinician Research Fellowship (2024–2027)** for the **SURE-STEP program**, which seeks to improve support for young people experiencing psychosis alongside substance use.

MNMH research spans the contributions of medical staff, nurses, allied health professionals, and dedicated research staff, reflecting a unified commitment to improving all aspects of mental health training, service provision, and patient care.

Millions of echocardiograms are performed every year, and almost anyone can undergo one. There are no needles, no pain, no risk, and no radiation, making it a very easily scalable technology. So, being better at answering clinical questions and making diagnoses for more people with a minimalist technology, to me, that is the goal.

Professor Gregory Scalia AM

FEATURED ARTICLE

Professor Gregory Scalia AM

Professor Gregory Scalia AM first stepped into The Prince Charles Hospital as a registrar in the early 90s.

Now, as the hospital's long-standing Director of Echocardiography, he has dedicated most of his career to ensuring that complex cardiac diagnoses are accessible to a much larger portion of the population through echocardiography, with research and practice integral to improving its methods and reach.

> *"For the first decade or so we tested out half a dozen ideas for improving echocardiography techniques to make diagnoses, because fundamentally our discipline is about democratising cardiac testing. Angiograms are wonderful, but only a small proportion of the population can have them, whereas millions of echo scans are done every year. So, all along the way, we have been trying to make complicated diagnoses with a very simple non-invasive test, inventing several techniques for things like holes in the heart, pulmonary hypertension, and heart failure with preserved function,"* Professor Scalia said.

Professor Scalia was awarded the prestigious Member of the Order of Australia in 2024, recognising his decades of outstanding contributions to echocardiography. Reflecting on his journey to this well-deserved honour, he acknowledges how far cardiology has come.

> *"Back in the day, you did everything—angiograms, pacing, etc. But by the mid-1990s, it was clear cardiology had grown too large for one clinician to do it all. My mentor here at TPCH was Dr Darryl Burstow, who returned from Mayo Clinic in the late 1980's and taught us it was okay to be a sub-sub specialist. Looking back, it seems preposterous to imagine doing all of cardiology, and we were the trailblazers of learning a single, sub-specialty discipline."*

Professor Scalia, along with Dr Darryl Burstow and Dr Bijoy Khandheria, had been running a small echocardiography meetup in the early 1990s, when the Mayo Clinic approached them about co-branding and becoming the Australian facilitator of a large satellite meeting – Echo Australia.

It was a big feather in the cap for a hospital far from the United States. But having experience running large conferences, and with strong industry support, they launched the first few events in Sydney, attracting 200-300 attendees. The events grew steadily, and by the fifth or sixth year, it was clear Australia needed its own conference. With experience and momentum, they took it over themselves.

There have now been 22 Echo Australia conferences, where Professor Scalia and colleagues have shared their learnings, equipping thousands with advanced echocardiography techniques. Around 8,600 people have attended this world-renowned event.

> *"Echocardiography was considered an ancillary method of diagnosis early in my career; however, two major shifts occurred around 2008. Firstly, 3D scanning was developed, allowing us to achieve photo-quality, real-time imaging of a beating heart. Simultaneously, miniaturisation enabled keyhole valve surgery, including mitral, aortic, and TAVI procedures. Both technologies needed each other; you couldn't do these procedures without photo-quality images. For me, I'd come out of nearly 15 years of open-heart surgery echocardiography, so I was ideally placed to pick up 3D structural imaging. We developed the initial algorithms—how to do this stuff—because none existed. Around 2011, we began sequencing the ultrasound techniques to achieve the desired outcome, and now the approach we developed—widely known as "The Prince Charles Way"—is followed around the world."*

> *"Passing the knowledge on is the best part. I suspect I've given more than 10,000 lectures. We've just passed 1,100 whom I've taught to do minimally invasive valve procedure echocardiography. I've written three international guidelines on these techniques."*

> *"As Director of Echocardiography at our hospital since 2016, I feel like the 'proud dad' of our echo program, its graduates, and the discipline of providing excellence in cardiac ultrasound for our patients."*

Nursing Research & Practice Development Centre (NRPDC)

Our nurse-led research group is committed to improving patient outcomes by conducting high-quality, practice-driven research. Through collaboration, mentorship, and innovation, the Centre supports and empowers nurses to lead and participate in impactful clinical research across TPCH.

HEAD OF THE RESEARCH GROUP

- Professor Paul Fulbrook

RESEARCH GROUP MEMBERS

- Associate Professor Adam Burston
- Saroeun Ven
- Jacob Butterworth
- Dr Sandra Miles

VISITING RESEARCHERS

- Dr Josephine Lovegrove
- Dr Michael Steele
- Dr Peter le Rossignol

2024 SNAPSHOT

- **Members:** 7
- **Clinical Trials and Studies:** 22+
- **Publications:** 14

TOWARDS BETTER PATIENT CARE AND SAFETY

A primary focus of the Centre is the prevention of hospital-acquired pressure injuries—painful, debilitating conditions that significantly impact patient wellbeing and increase healthcare burdens.

The group also undertakes research into falls prevention and wound care, both critical areas for enhancing patient safety, reducing length of hospital stays, and improving overall care efficiency.

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2024, NRPDC led over 17 research projects focused on improving clinical practices in pressure injury prevention and wound management.

Key initiatives included:

- Implementing a risk-stratified intervention model in intensive care units to reduce pressure injury incidence
- Conducting systematic reviews to evaluate current risk assessment tools
- Validating the COMHON Index as a novel instrument for assessing pressure injury risk

> **A major achievement this year was advancing pressure injury risk assessment capabilities, equipping nursing staff with evidence-based tools to proactively identify and manage high-risk patients.**

The group disseminated its findings through 14 peer-reviewed journal publications and 19 national and international conference presentations, further contributing to global nursing knowledge and best practice.

Our PhD candidates made outstanding progress:

- **Ms Saroeun Ven** is developing a specialised risk assessment tool for use in palliative care populations.
- **Mr Jake McMahon** is evaluating and reducing low-value practices in pressure injury prevention and management.

Both students have actively presented their work in scholarly forums and contributed to published literature.

Additionally, the group collaborated on more than five nursing workforce research projects with the Australian Catholic University (ACU), reinforcing a shared commitment to advancing nursing science and workforce development.

In 2024, we acknowledged the retirement of Professor Paul Fulbrook, whose leadership over the past decade has been instrumental in shaping the Centre's national and international standing.

Professor Fulbrook's distinguished career includes authorship of over 150 publications, more than 3,500 citations, a Scopus h-index of 26, four studies cited in the 2019 International Pressure Injury Guidelines and leadership roles in numerous global nursing organisations. His legacy leaves a strong foundation for continued excellence in nurse-led research at TPCH.

QLTS Laboratory Research Unit

The QLTS Laboratory Research Unit is dedicated to improving survival and quality of life for patients with progressive lung diseases and those who have undergone lung transplantation. The group bridges molecular discovery with clinical translation, working at the forefront of respiratory medicine to drive breakthroughs in diagnosis, treatment, and prevention.

HEAD OF THE RESEARCH GROUP

- Professor Dan Chambers

RESEARCH GROUP MEMBERS

- Dr Simon Apte
- Dr Viviana Lutzky
- Maxine Tan
- Penelope Groves
- Dr Amy Pham
- Sjane Timmins
- Dr John Mackintosh
- Dr Chandima Divithotawela
- Dr Lai-Ying Zhang
- Dr Peter Bell
- Levi Hockey
- Shruthi Malappurath Suresh

2024 SNAPSHOT

- **Members:** 13
- **Clinical Trials and Studies:** 13
- **Awards/Grants:** 5 awards
- **Publications:** 22

REVOLUTIONISING RESPIRATORY MEDICINE

The QLTS team integrates cutting-edge biological science with clinical application to advance care in complex respiratory conditions. Our focus on progressive lung diseases—particularly fibrosing conditions—addresses a significant unmet need in pulmonary medicine.

Leveraging advances in **single-cell RNA sequencing (scRNA-seq)**, the team is contributing to a deeper understanding of the cellular mechanisms underlying chronic lung diseases. Building on these insights, our researchers are developing **mRNA-based therapeutics** with the potential to transform treatment approaches for patients previously considered untreatable.

HIGHLIGHTS FOCUS AREAS AND BREAKTHROUGHS

In 2024, QLTS delivered major advances across key domains: **Lung Fibrosis and Silicosis: Identified novel iron-related pathways involved in disease progression, Lung Transplantation: Mapped detailed immunological landscapes via advanced T-cell profiling and Infection** and **Immunity: Uncovered the role of cloaking antibodies in Burkholderia cepacia complex infection.**

Translation and Methodological Innovation

Notable translational achievements included: **Development of new diagnostic tools for hypersensitivity pneumonitis** and **Novel cellular genomics approaches to analyse biomarkers in bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) samples.**

These discoveries are informing next-generation diagnostics and therapies, accelerating clinical translation in respiratory medicine.

Research Outputs and Recognition

The group produced an impressive **22 peer-reviewed publications**, underscoring their leadership in the field.

Key publications included: *Silicosis—Where to From Here? Immunological Landscapes in Lung Transplantation: Insights from T Cell Profiling in BAL* and *PBMC and Compassionate Access to Virus-Specific T Cells for Adoptive Immunotherapy Over 15 Years.*

Awards and Achievements

The team was proud to celebrate the accomplishments of several members in 2024:

- **Dr Simon Apte**
- **Dr Lai-Ying Zhang**
- **Dr John Mackintosh** (dual award recipient)
- **Professor Dan Chambers**, named a '**Lung Health Legend**' for his ongoing contributions to the field

The QLTS team's unique combination of molecular science and clinical insight distinguishes it as a leader in respiratory research. By applying advanced techniques such as single-cell RNA sequencing to explore lung disease mechanisms, the group is shaping the future of respiratory medicine and opening new pathways for therapeutic innovation.

Sleep Health Research Group

The Sleep Health Research Group is committed to improving patient outcomes by advancing the diagnosis, treatment, and management of sleep disorders. Through collaborative research and innovative clinical models, the group seeks to make sleep health care more effective, accessible, and responsive to patient needs, particularly for those in regional and vulnerable populations.

HEAD OF THE RESEARCH GROUP

- Dr Deanne Curtin

RESEARCH GROUP MEMBERS

- Dr Irene Szollosi
- Dr Dan Henderson
- Dr Peter Robinson
- Dr George Tay
- Dr Sebastian Le Feuvre
- Dr Sara Winter
- Dr Danielle Wilson
- Mrs Jan Robinson
- Mr Thomas Georgeson
- Ms Alexandra Childs
- Mr Trent Segal

2024 SNAPSHOT

- **Members:** 12
- **Clinical Trials and Studies:** 19
- **Awards/Grants:** 1 Grant
- **Publications:** 1

TOWARDS EFFECTIVE, ACCESSIBLE TREATMENT OF SLEEP DISORDERS

As awareness of sleep disorders continues to grow, so does the demand for timely diagnosis and treatment. The Sleep Health Research Group is at the forefront of integrating advanced diagnostic tools and developing patient-centred care models, especially for patients with complex conditions such as neuromuscular disorders and cognitive impairment.

The team is actively evaluating and streamlining clinical pathways to enhance the accessibility and efficiency of obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA) diagnosis and treatment. A major focus is the delivery of care to patients in regional and remote Queensland, where access has historically been limited.

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2024, the group led or participated in over 19 clinical trials and research studies. Highlights included:

- Completion of a study on **intermittent hypoxia in OSA and its impact on cognitive performance**
- Continuation of a pilot study evaluating the impact of **six months of CPAP therapy** on cerebral small vessel disease markers in patients with OSA and mild cognitive impairment
- New investigations into **cognitive behavioural therapy for hypersomnolence disorders**

These initiatives contributed to refining diagnostic methods and treatment pathways, evaluating CPAP use, and examining the role of sleep in broader neurological and systemic conditions.

Key outputs included:

- Publication of the **intermittent hypoxia and cognition study** in Sleep Science and Practice
- Presentation of research on **sleep position during pregnancy and fetal birthweight** at the Australian Sleep Association Conference

The group was awarded a **SWIFT Grant** to support an ongoing collaborative project with Metro South Health focused on **sleep disorders among First Nations peoples in South-East Queensland**, aiming to address equity in sleep health care.

Our work evaluating new models of care for sleep disorders plays a vital role in ensuring evidence-based, best-practice treatment across the continuum of care. From improving diagnostic precision to enhancing care pathways for underserved populations, our research continues to shape the future of sleep health services in Queensland and beyond.

The University of Queensland Thoracic Research Centre

The University of Queensland Thoracic Research Centre (UQTRC) is dedicated to advancing lung health through clinical and translational research.

The Centre focuses on improving the diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer, mesothelioma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and asthma.

Through its multidisciplinary approach and innovation, UQTRC drives significant improvements in respiratory health. Supported by a multidisciplinary team of clinicians, scientists, research nurses and administrative professionals, the Centre is well-positioned to undertake impactful research to improve respiratory conditions that affect our community.

HEAD OF THE RESEARCH GROUP

- Professor Kwun Fong

RESEARCH GROUP MEMBERS

Senior Researchers

- Professor Ian Yang
- Associate Professor Henry Marshall
- Associate Professor Rayleen Bowman
- Dr Barbara Page
- Dr Kelly Chee
- Ms Maria Martins
- Ms Linda Passmore
- Ms Jaccalyne Brady
- Ms Jenny Peek
- Ms Anita Goldsworthy
- Mr Peter Vardon
- Ms Caeli Zarah
- Dr Holly Bendotti

Current PhD students

- Dr Gerry Olive
- Dr Marissa Daniels
- Mr Edward Stephens
- Ms Jazmin Mireya Guayco Sigcha
- Ms Janet Shaw

Master of Philosophy Students

- Dr Edwina Duhig
- Nikita Patel

2024 SNAPSHOT

- **Members:** 20
- **Clinical Trials and Studies:** 16
- **Awards/Grants:** 1/17
- **Publications:** 21 peer-reviewed publications

EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE AND IMPROVING LUNG HEALTH

The Centre hosts a **molecular genetics laboratory**, enabling sophisticated analysis including genomic profiling, and manages the **TPCH Lung Biobank**, one of Australia's most extensive lung tissue repositories with over 20 years of sample donations from patients.

Funding is provided by national and international sources including the **NHMRC, ARC, DDB, ACRF, Cancer Australia, Cancer Council Queensland** and **TPCH Foundation**.

HIGHLIGHTS

Clinical Research

In 2024, UQTRC conducted 16 major research projects, including: **The Australian and International Lung Screen Trials, The CO-RiQUIRE project (COmorbidity, RIsk, QUIt, REach), addressing key knowledge gaps in lung cancer screening** and **Development and testing of a mobile health avatar to support smoking cessation.**

These projects contribute to earlier detection, improved prevention strategies, and more equitable access to care.

Scientific Innovation

With the support of **The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation** and **The University of Queensland**, the Centre acquired a state-of-the-art **digital PCR system**. This advanced equipment enables high-precision genomic analysis of tissue, lung, and blood samples, significantly expanding the research capabilities of the Centre.

Research Outputs

UQTRC's research was published in several leading peer-reviewed respiratory and cancer journals and presented at major national and international conferences. Some findings have already contributed to updates in national and international **clinical practice guidelines**, reinforcing the Centre's role in shaping evidence-based respiratory care.

UQTRC is internationally recognised for its contributions to the understanding and treatment of lung conditions. Through collaboration, innovation, and research codesigned with consumers, the Centre is helping to improve health outcomes not only in Queensland, but around the world.

We all have a role to play in a patient's recovery. Memory Lane is a great way to enhance this recovery process and is also evidence-based. Best of all, the patients really love it.

Senior Occupational Therapist Karen Fichtenmayer

FEATURED ARTICLE

Enhancing patient recovery with Memory Lane

According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, there were about 27,800 hospitalisations in Australia due to dementia in 2023–24, with an average length of stay of 15 days.

Evidence shows that older people can lose a significant amount of muscle in just a few days by lying in bed. This hospital-associated deconditioning puts them at higher risk of functional decline, which affects walking ability and independence.

Clinicians at The Prince Charles Hospital (TPCH) were motivated to enhance patient outcomes, and the concept of Memory Lane was introduced.

At the end of 2023, this hospital corridor connecting the Early Assessment Medical Unit (EMU), 1F, and 1G/Geriatric Evaluation & Management (GEM) Wards, where older adults are cared for - many of whom have some form of cognitive decline or delirium - was transformed into a meaningful space that supports patients' functional, emotional, physiological, and behavioural well-being.

The hallway, inspired by a similar memory corridor in the UK and funded through The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation's 2022 Giving Day, is adorned with images from yesteryear, carefully selected to showcase the rich history of Brisbane, particularly the area around TPCH.

In 2024, the hospital's Occupational Therapy department enlisted the help of some fourth-year UQ students to complete a joint project aimed at promoting the new service and gathering feedback on its usage from clinicians, patients, and staff. A comprehensive literature review was conducted and a survey completed with patients, family members and staff about their awareness and use of Memory Lane. Staff were additionally asked about how confident they felt using Memory Lane with their patients.

> *"The literature review examined various aspects but focused mainly on non-pharmacological interventions similar to Memory Lane, which utilise reminiscence therapy. These approaches can stimulate memory, increase social engagement, reduce feelings of loneliness, support mental health, and promote functional and cognitive rehabilitation,"* said Occupational Therapist Lisa von Berky.

Despite the benefits showcased in the literature review, the survey results revealed a definite need to further promote the service, highlight the evidence base and reinforce the value of Memory Lane use to enhance patient recovery.

> *"We're committed to ensuring Memory Lane is used to its full therapeutic potential. Our thought was that if we create resources, including a brochure, poster, and tip sheet, to promote Memory Lane, people can see the evidence behind it and understand how it can really benefit their family members. The tip sheet is a support, so families or carers feel comfortable liaising with nursing staff and confident getting their family members engaging with the service,"* said Senior Occupational Therapist, Karen Fichtenmayer.

Phase Two of this project will involve evaluating the promotional resources created during Phase One and developing a video about Memory Lane and its benefits, to be played on Queensland Health patient televisions and iPads.

> *"As the Memory Lane project evolves, it holds the promise not only of better outcomes—but also of enhancing dignity and joy with every patient's journey,"* said Karen.


THE COMMON GOOD
Mr Cheng Zhang
New Investigator Grant
2024

2024 Grants Awarded by The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation

Grant Type	Recipient	Project Title	Amount Awarded
CKW Health Research Grant	Helen Edwards	Embracing Menopause in the Workplace - Do we need to Reframe the Path to a Healthier Future?	$17,243.00
CKW Health Research Grant	Thuy Frakking	Use of artificial intelligence in the development of a classifier for the detection of aspiration in premature babies	$19,884.70
CKW Health Research Grant	Mahesh Ramanan	Survival after critical illness- what do consumers think?	$19,985.69
CKW Health Research Grant	Emma Doyle	Preventing recurrent inpatient falls: Understanding patient, family-members, and staff perspectives on contemporary falls prevention huddles.	$9,867.00
CKW Health Research Grant	Adam Dubrava	Screening of dysphagia in stroke patients at Caboolture Hospital	$10,000.00
CKW Health Research Grant	Johathan Thomson	Droperidol in Acute Back Pain in the Emergency Room	$9,980.00
CKW Collaborative Grants *50% co-contribution from UniSC	Laine Chilman	Unlocking Precision Healthcare: Tailoring feeding disorder management for culturally diverse children to sustain improvements in health outcomes.	$40,000.00
CKW Collaborative Grants *50% co-contribution from UniSC	Alison Craswell	Clinical effectiveness of selection and insertion by a vascular access specialist in a regional setting: a randomised controlled trial and feasibility study	$37,709.00
Emerging Researcher	Lisa Franks	Determining the clinical utility of functional status measures in assessing heart transplant candidates	$24,450.10
Emerging Researcher	Jessica Benitez Mendieta	Optimizing VA-ECMO: A Pulsatile Flow Analysis based on Computational and Experimental Fluid Dynamics.	$21,450.00
Emerging Researcher	Hollie Bendotti	Fidelity, feasibility, and acceptability of a novel wearable nicotine sensor in clinical practice	$24,955.00
Emerging Researcher	Han Yu	Stroke risk evaluation for patients with atrial fibrillation	$11,601.60
Equipment	Norm Morris	Vascular Echocardiography Ultrasound, Portable Altitude Training System	$81,375.00
Equipment	John Fraser	Multiplate - Platelet Function System including monitor and pipette, DxH 500 Haematology Analyzer, GEM Hemochron 100 - ACT Testing Device, Getinge TPP Monitoring, Lucas 3: Chest Compression System, CARESCAPE Respiratory Monitoring Device, Stratasys J35 Pro 3D System, EEG/Entropy module, Philips Respironics NM3	$322,669.41
Equipment	John Fraser	ISCUSflex Microdialysis Analyzer, Vivid E95 Echocardiographer, Multisizer, Microcirculation scanner, Rotor Assembly	$570,809.88
Equipment	TPCH Emergency	Corpuls CPR device, X Series Defibrillators	$142,135.40
Equipment	TPCH Heart & Lung	Sonosite PX Ultrasound System, Pleuroscope Olympus LTF-H290,XVIVO Heart Assist Transport Perfusion Sets	$308,255.49
Equipment	TPCH ICU	Edwards Hemisphere Monitor, TOE Probe, Ultrasound Machine	$225,814.49
Equipment	TPCH Anaesthetics	McGrath Mac Laryngoscope	$24,200.00
Equipment	TPCH Sleep Disorder Centre	Vivo 3 Portable Ventilators, Breas Vivo 45LS Ventilator	$31,565.41
Equipment	TPCH Anaesthesia & Perfusion	Sonosite Ultrasound Machine, Transesophageal Echocardiography (TOE) machine	$506,953.70
Equipment	TPCH Perfusion	Essenz Patient Monitors (4)	$174,240.00
Equipment	TPCH Physiotherapy	Simeox Airway Clearance device	$10,956.00
Equipment	Shanal Kumar	Body Composition Analyzer	$15,950.00

2024 Grants Awarded by The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation continued ...

Grant Type	Recipient	Project Title	Amount Awarded
Equipment	Faye Jordan	iPads	$1,530.40
Equipment	Edward Stephens	PI Singel Hopper Cassette Print	$14,980.00
Equipment	Maithri Siriwardena	GlycoCheck Pro	$50,400.00
Equipment	Caboolture Emergency	Corpus CPR Device (4)	$143,000.00
Innovation & Capacity Building	Liz Cheesman	Discovering new therapeutic targets for cardiac fibrosis	$84,499.00
Innovation & Capacity Building	Angela Matson	Colo-rectal cancer screening (CRC) in adults with cystic fibrosis: considerations in the post modulator era.	$11,956.34
Innovation Grant	Hideaki Nonaka	Load Incorporating Cardiac Assessment by Echocardiography to Refine Outcome Predictions In Patients with SEpsis: Prospective Multicentre Study (LIAISE study)	$98,400.00
Innovation Grant	Jonathon Fanning	Surgery-related Heart Injury Evaluation: Limiting Damage with Dapagliflozin (SHIELD) Pilot	$99,656.00
Innovation Grant	Eric Wu	FAIR (Facilitating Advanced, Impartial and Responsible) Algorithms for Pulse Oximetry	$95,555.55
Innovation Grant	Andrew Stephens	CerebrOx – A Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Feedback System	$60,000.00
Innovation Grant	Ian Yang	Extracellular vesicle-derived RNA biomarkers of lung cancer in never-smokers for early cancer detection	$99,508.00
Innovation Grant	Hannah Gullo	Personalised virtual reality experiences to enhance the end-of-life journey for people in our care	$92,600.00
Innovation Grant	Isuru Ranasinghe	Developing Robust Methods for Population Surveillance of Infective Endocarditis	$100,000.00
Mid Career Research Fellowship	Kafa Walweel	Salary support	$245,000.00
Mid Career Research Fellowship	Jacky Suen	Salary support	$245,000.00
Mid Career Research Fellowship	Perry Judd	Salary support	$130,000.00
Mid Career Research Fellowship	Dan Chambers	Salary support	$280,000.00
New Investigator	Dieu Le	Understanding of mitochondrial function during hypothermic machine perfusion in 'donation after circulatory death' heart transplantation.	$9,663.93
New Investigator	Yanyun Pan	Impact of Blood Flow Dynamics on endocrine function of Lung Epithelial and Endothelial Cell: Pulsatile vs. Continuous Flow Analysis	$11,901.00
New Investigator	Dhayananth Kanagarajan	Development of Silicone Aortic Phantom to Evaluate the Effect of Mixing Zones in VA-ECMO to Prevent Brain Injury	$11,972.59
New Investigator	Bara Kubanova	Effects of acute septic shock resuscitation on hepatic perfusion and function	$12,000.00
New Investigator	Karen Hecimovic	ENABLE: Enlisting Novel digital psychological And Behavioural therapy to eLevatE outcomes for children and families	$12,000.00
New Investigator	Iain Smith	Assessing the quality of home spirometry at a single centre adult cystic fibrosis service	$11,803.96
New Investigator	Louise Mills	Attitudes, beliefs and knowledge of multidisciplinary Emergency Department (ED) staff towards Recognising, Responding and Referring to Domestic and Family Violence (DFV). Co-designing resources incorporating DFV Victim survivor wishes.	$11,997.32
New Investigator	Johannes Boesch	Assessment of blood trauma in pulsatile vs. continuous flow ECMO in an ex-vivo model.	$11,910.00
New Investigator	Tanya Palmer	The Dyspnea Challenge: Validation of a test to measure exertional breathlessness in chronic heart and lung disease.	$12,000.00
New Investigator	Laura Rogers	Parental Analysis and Reasoning when visiting the Emergency Department with children for Non-Emergent Treatment (PARENT)	$12,000.00
New Investigator	Cheng Zhang	An exploration of protein profile underlying the therapeutic effect of hydrogen gas in an ovine model of severe acute lung injury.	$11,800.00
New Investigator	Molly-Rose McInerney	Identifying differentially expressed cardiac injury markers in the coronary sinus of Donation After Circulatory Death (DCD) hearts compared with peripheral expression.	$11,905.57
New Investigator	Sang Huynh	Effect of hypothermic oxygenated perfusion (HOPE) on micro RNAs as markers of long-term compatibility of the transplanted heart	$12,000.00

Grant Type	Recipient	Project Title	Amount Awarded
New Investigator	Jinyang Yang	Characterising the Impact of Sustained Neurological Injury on Cardiac Mitochondrial Integrity and Function in Donation After Circulatory Death (DCD)	$11,341.50
PhD scholarship	Hideaki Nonaka	Exploration of Novel Echocardiographic Assessment of Right Heart Function using Animal Heart Failure Model	$103,980.97
PhD scholarship	Rachael McCall	The management of child protection concerns in an Adults Emergency Department	$108,801.89
PhD scholarship	Andrew Burke	Pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics of mycobacterial drugs in cystic fibrosis and drug- resistant tuberculosis	$13,658.25
Program Support	John Fraser	Endowment Cardiac Research Fellowship (Matched funding to support female researcher)	$200,000.00
Program Support *co-contribution from Lite'n'Easy	Jack Bell	Feasibility of conducting a cluster-randomised trial to evaluate the effect of post-discharge meal provision on patient-reported and health-related outcomes in older adults post hip fracture	$150,000.00
QUT CBT Seed Grant *50% co-contribution	Antonia RuJia Sun	Analysis for Biomarker Identification and Correlation with Pain and Functional Outcomes Pre- and Post-Genicular Artery Embolisation: PRAETORIAN Extension Study	$14,954.00
QUT CBT Seed Grant *50% co-contribution	Navid Freidoonimehr	Advancing clinical strategies for the assessment and management of coronary tandem lesions: optimising patient outcomes through precision diagnostics	$14,992.00
QUT CBT Seed Grant *50% co-contribution	Han Yu	Quantitative Assessment of Coronary Blood Flow Alterations Due to Aortic Stenosis	$12,012.70
Research Fellowship	Mehrdad Khamooshi	Stopping Strokes: A Novel Prediction Model Based on Aortic Anatomy	$330,000.00
Research Fellowship	Andrew Stephens	Smart Technologies for Pre-Hospital Emergency Medicine	$450,000.00
Research Fellowship	Viviana Lutzky	Personalized treatment for lung fibrosis-How old are your lungs?	$450,000.00
TPCH Collaborative Seed Grant	Maryam Khorramshahi Bayat, Elzahn De Waal	Accuracy of point-of-care estimation of urinary sodium concentration using a dipstick in acute heart failure	$50,000.00
TPCH Collaborative Seed Grant	Sara Winter, Peter Stevenson, Rebeckah Mooney, Marissa Galler	Connection and Kinship: Culturally Safe and Responsive Care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Families	$29,989.00
TPCH Collaborative Seed Grant	Faye Jordan, Eamonn Eeles	Bringing the diagnosis and management of delirium into the 21st century	$49,843.00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Active Grants 2024

Chief Investigators	Granting Agency	Project Title	Years of Funding	Total Funding Awarded	Funding received for 2024	Grant Type
Anderson	Emergency Medicine Foundation	PINNACLE: Physiotherapists INjectiNg the AnaesthetiC Lidocaine in Emergency - a single site new investigator study.	2025	$9,976		Project Grant
Bell	Australian Research Council Linkage Grant	Combating pathogens from biofilms in premise plumbing systems	2025-2027			Project Grant
Bell, Wainwright, Reid, Sly et al	Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (USA)	NTM: understanding acquistion and transmission pathways	2020-2022 (Extended to end 2023)	$USD 912k (+317k pandemic extension) = $1.23 million)	$458,472	Project Grant
Bendotti	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Fidelity, feasibility, and acceptability of a novel wearable nicotine sensor in clinical practice	2024-2026	$24,955		Project Grant
Bendotti, Marshall	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Smoking cessation chatbot: Prototype testing and feedback from consumers, clinicians and academics	2021 - 2025	$9,972		Project Grant
Benitez, Wu	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Optimizing VA_ECMO A pulsatile flow analysis based on Computational and Experimental Fluid Dynamics	2025-2026	$24,950		Project Grant
Bösch	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Assessment of blood trauma in pulsatile vs. continuous flow ECMO in an ex-vivo model	2024	$11,910	$11,910	Project Grant
Burrel, Hodgson, Stub, Higgins, Kasza, Nicol, Serpa Neto, McQuilten, Shekar, Marasco, Pellegrino, Dennis, Nair	Medical Research Future Fund	PRecision Ecmo in CardIogenic Shock Evaluation: PRECISE Study	2022-2026	$999,779	$249,945	Project Grant
Castellini	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Core Beliefs and Coping in Cystic Fibrosis, and How These Relate to Health and Adherence	2023-2024	$9,833	$9,833	Project Grant
Chambers	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	ORF2023-10 PhD Scholarship top-up focussed on silicosis	2023-	$96,576		Program Grant
Chambers	National Health and Medical Research Council	CRE for Interstitial Lung Disease - towards Individualised Care	2022-2026	$2,500,000		Program Grant
Chambers	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	IACB2022-01 Investigating antibody medicated lung transplant rejection	2023-2024	$50,000	$50,000	Project Grant
Chambers	National Health and Medical Research Council	The SiroSkin study: A multi-centre randomised double-blind placebo-controlled trial of 1% topical sirolimus in the chemoprevention of facial squamous cell carcinomas in solid organ transplant recipients	2021-2025	$2,480,000		Project Grant
Chambers	National Health and Medical Research Council	Ambulatory oxygen for interstitial lung disease	2020-2024	$1,503,000		Project Grant
Chambers, Apte	Medical Research Future Fund	Silicosis - Harnessing new ideas to conquer the re-emergence of an ancient lung disease - The SHIELD Study	2021-2025	$2,163,516	$263,106	Project Grant
Chambers, Apte, Tan	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	INN2023-15 Silicosis - Health monitoring Innovation to Eliminate Lung Dust Disease (SHIELDED Study)	2023-2025	$96,265		Project Grant
Chambers, Edwards, Dellar, Newbigin, Apte	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Silicosis – new Ideas to conquer the re-Emergence of an ancient Lung Disease -The SHIELD Study	2019-2025	$94,334.00	$25,852	Program Grant

Active Grants 2024 continued...

Chief Investigators	Granting Agency	Project Title	Years of Funding	Total Funding Awarded	Funding received for 2024	Grant Type
Chambers, Gillis, Apte, Divithotewala, Thornton, Droney	Pathology Queensland	Antibody mediated rejection - let me refresh your memonry	2022-2024	$100,000	$82,992	Project Grant
Chambers, Mackintosh	Medical Research Future Fund	TELOSCOPE	2020-2026	$1,828,446	$17,242	Project Grant
Chambers, Mackintosh	Medical Research Future Fund	A randomised clinical trial of a digital self-management package for people with Interstitial Lung Disease (the REBUILD-SM trial)	2021-2026	$2,000,834	$8,015	Project Grant
Chambers, Mackintosh	National Health and Medical Research Council	Treatable Traits in Interstitial Lung Disease (TTRILD) Study: The New Frontier	2023-26	$1,999,323		Project Grant
Chambers, Timmins	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	ORF2023-08 QLTS Research Group Program Manager Support	2023-2026	$280,000	$90,000	Program Grant
Chee	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	New strategies in lung cancer diagnostics by more accurate and sensitive detection methods	2024-2026	$330,000		Fellowship
Cheeseman	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Discovering new therapeutic targets for cardiac fibrosis	2024-2025	$85,000	$20,000	Capacity Building Grant
Churchill, Mandrusiak, Thomas, Allen, Dsouza, Hay, Ramanan, Tronstad	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Can lung ultrasound predict post-operative pulmonary complications in high-risk post-operative cardiac surgery patients? A multi-centre prospective observational cohort study	2022 (extended until 2025)	$29,553		Project Grant
Churchill, Mandrusiak, Thomas, Allen, Dsouza, Hay, Ramanan, Tronstad	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Can lung ultrasound predict post-operative pulmonary complications in the adult cardiac surgery population, alter physiotherapy practice and improve patient outcomes?	2023-2026	$100,000	$35,000	Scholarship
Churchill, Thomas, Paratz, Caruana, Sutt, Mandrusiak, Tronstad	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Determining the Safety and Benefits of Exercising Tracheostomised Mechanically Ventilated Patients with Passy-Muir Speaking Valves	2020 (extended until 2025)	$9,988		Project Grant
Cobb	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	The impacts of self-initiated modifications of maintenance physiotherapy on clinical stability in people with cystic fibrosis commencing Elexacaftor – Tezacaftor- Ivacaftor	2023-2024	$9,545	$9,545	Project Grant
Curtin, Szollosi, Le Feuvre	Medical Research Future Fund	A multi-centre randomised controlled trial of polysomnographic titration of non-invasive ventilation in motor neurone disease	2022-2026	$113,500		Project Grant
Dargusch, Wrigley, Fraser	Medical Research Future Fund	Artificial Heart Frontiers Program - (TOTAL GRANT)	2023-2028	$50,000,000		Program Grant
Dyer, Fraser, Suen, Li Bassi	Australian Red Cross Lifeblood	Pilot study: A clinically-relevant ovine model of cardiopulmonary bypass to assess interventions to improve renal outcomes.	2022-2025	$40,000	$13,300	Project Grant
Eeles	IMPACT Grant	Delirium screening and aeitology app	2024	$70,000		Project Grant
Eeles, Van der Boon	Innovation Grant	Feasibility of music intervention to reduce symptoms of delirium in patients admitted to a general medical ward.	2024	$39,000		Project Grant
Evans, Smith, Burke, Roberts, Hernandez-Mitre	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	A population pharmacokinetic study of elexacaftor, tezacaftor, ivacaftor (Trikafta) in patients with Cystic Fibrosis with the development of therapeutic drug monitoring targets.	2023-2025	$97,506		Project Grant
Fanning	Metro North Clinical Research Fellowship	Clinical Research Fellowship 0.4FTE for 3.5 years	2022-2026			Fellowship

Chief Investigators	Granting Agency	Project Title	Years of Funding	Total Funding Awarded	Funding received for 2024	Grant Type
Fanning	National Heart Foundation 2024 Vanguard Grant	Surgery-related Heart Injury Evaluation: Limiting Damage (SHIELD) with dual antiplatelet therapy and dapagliflozin – a pilot study	2024	$75,000		Project Grant
Fanning	ANZCA CTN Pilot Grant 2024	A feasibility study in preparation of the "Platform-factorial Evaluation of Prospective Randomised Myocardial Injury in Non-Cardiac Surgery Therapies (PEPPERMINT)" trial	2024	$10,000		Project Grant
Fanning	ANZCA Project Grant 2024	Pilot study of dual antiplatelet therapy and heart failure medication to manage myocardial injury in non-cardiac surgery.	2024	$69,972		Project Grant
Fanning	Metro North Health	Stimulus Grant 2024	2024	$10,000		Project Grant
Fanning	Wesley Research Institute	Project Grants 2024	2024	$250,000		Project Grant
Fanning	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Surgery-related Heart Injury Evaluation: Limiting Damage with Dapagliflozin (SHIELD) Pilot	2024-2025	$99,656		Project Grant
Fior	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	BIOFluid-induced Lung injury: a nOvel pathOgenic mechanism in acute respiratory Distress syndrome (the BIO-FLOOD study)	2023-2025	$53,998	$26,999	Project Grant
Fong	National Health and Medical Research Council	Early diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer Fellowship	2019-2024	$487,893		Fellowship
Fong, Lwin	National Health and Medical Research Council	Early lung cancer biomarkers	2020-2023	$754,893		Project Grant
Fong, Yang, Bowman, Marshall, Valery, Garvey, Toombs, Otty, O'Rourke	Cancer Council Queensland	Lung Cancer Screening in Queensland	2022 - 2026	$1,400,000 Cancer Council, $600,000 University of Queensland co contribution		Project Grant
Fong, Yang, Marshall, Bowman, O'Rourke, Valery, Stone, Canfell, Weber, Garvey, Lam, Tammemagi, Otty, Sabesan, Brims, McWilliams	Australian Cancer Research Foundation	Lung Cancer Screening CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE	2022-2025	$2,000,000		Equipment Grant
Fong, Yang, Marshall, Tammemagi, Lam, Toombs, Manser, McWilliams	Medical Research Future Fund	Lung cancer screening for early detection	2021- 2024	$2,836,143		Project Grant
Fraser	Zoran and Anton Spiranovic	Effect of mitochondrial transplantation following hypothermic machine perfusion on donor heart ischemic time	2023-2025	$220,000	$110,000	Fellowship
Fraser	Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals	APELSO ARDS registry	2022-2025	$342,000	$114,000	Industry Sponsored
Fraser	Queensland Health	Queensland Health Translational Research Funding Hon Shannon Fentiman (DonateLife)	2024-2027	$1,601,000	$667,000	Capacity Building Grant
Fraser	Medical Research Future Fund	Australasian Resuscitation in Sepsis Evaluation: Fluid or Vasopressors in Emergency Department Sepsis (ARISE: Fluids) Trial (5 year Study)	2020-2025	$2,335,540	$467,108	Project Grant

Active Grants 2024 continued...

Chief Investigators	Granting Agency	Project Title	Years of Funding	Total Funding Awarded	Funding received for 2024	Grant Type
Fraser, Suen, Boesch, Wu	Heart Foundation	Addressing deficiencies of current ECMO with an innovative pulsatile flow technology (ADEPT)	2024-2027	$149,022	$49,674	Project Grant
Fraser, Chan, Nonaka, Siriwardena	Heart Foundation	Load Incorporating Cardiac Assessment by Echocardiography in Patients with Septic Cardiomyopathy; a Prospective Multicentre Study (SEPSIS ECHO Study)	2024-2025	$108,449	$54,225	Project Grant
Fraser, Chan, Nonaka, Siriwardena	Wesley Research Institute	Understanding the impact of Spanish Flu on Adult and Children lungs, cell-by-cell.	2023-2025	$75,000	$37,500	Project Grant
Fraser, Suen, Li Bassi, Kaye	Medical Research Future Fund	Artificial Heart Frontiers Program - Evaluating the impacts of blood flow pulsatility in ECMO devices	2024-2027	$1,072,845	$429,138	Program Grant
Ganesan, Jackson, Tung, Stoyanov, King, Sutton, Ranasinghe, Morton, Clark, Selva, Tiver, Karnon	Medical Research Future Fund	Remote monitoring of cardiac implantable electronic devices using an exception-based model of care	2023-2026	$1,460,000		Project Grant
Garbutt, Wu (previously Dhayananth and Clayton)	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Development of Sllicone Aortic Phantom to Evaluate the Effect of Mixing Zones in VA-ECMO to prevent Brain injury	2024	$11,973		Project Grant
Georgeson, Wilson, Szollosi	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Cognitive function and sleepiness in patients with OSA before and after 2 months of CPAP treatment	2023-2024	$10,000		Project Grant
Guayco Sigcha	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Plasma and Serum microRNAs for lung cancer screening	2023-2024	$9,978		Project Grant
Gurunathan	Queensland Advancing Clinical Research Fellowship	Clinical Research Fellowship 0.3 FTE for 3 years	2022-2025			Fellowship
Haqqani	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Embedding Genetic Counselling in Cardiology	2023-2025	$250,000	$125,000	Capacity Building Grant
Haqqani	Perpetual Philanthropy	Assessing the Heart after TAVI (EP TAVI Project)	2023-2025	$45,000	$11,000	Project Grant
Herd, Matson, Loel	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Assessment of sodium status and replacement in adults with Cystic Fibrosis living in Queensland post Elexacaftor-Texacaftor-Ivacaftor	2024-2025	$15,000	$15,000	Project Grant
Hetherington, Bauer	Emergency Medicine Foundation	Nurse Led Stretching Inhaled Salbutamol (NLSIS)	2024	$70,904		Project Grant
Hodgson, Cooper, Fraser, Bellomo	National Health and Medical Research Council	A Centre for Research Excellence to Transform Outcomes of Critically Ill Patients in ICU (CRE-ICU)	2021-2026	$2,500,000	$416,000	Program Grant
Hodgson, Fraser, Baker, Nair, Bernard, Pilcher, Pellegrino, Brodie	Medical Research Future Fund	A National Intensive Care Research Data Initiative (NICE-Data)	2023-2027	$2,717,605	$679,401	Project Grant
Hodgson, McQuilten, Higgins, Heritier, Ryan, Serpa Neto, Burrell, Nichol, Cooper, Pellegrino, Udy, Livingstone, Young, Fraser, Nair, Buscher, Fan, Orford	Medical Research Future Fund	Generating new evidence to reduce complications and improve the safety and efficacy of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) in patients with severe cardiac and respiratory failure: The RECOMMEND Platform Trial	2023-2028	$2,985,993	$746,498	Project Grant
Horvat, Reid, Brown, Simpson, Essilfie.	National Health and Medical Research Council	APP 2028625: Manipulating iron metabolism for the treatment of severe asthma and COPD	2024-2027	$1,300,000		Project Grant

Chief Investigators	Granting Agency	Project Title	Years of Funding	Total Funding Awarded	Funding received for 2024	Grant Type
Huynh	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Effect of hypothermic oxygenated perfusion (HOPE) on micro RNAs as markers of long-term compatibility of the transplanted heart	2024	$12,000	$12,000	Project Grant
Jordan	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Out of funding round CBG top up request	2024	$40,000		Capacity Building Grant
Jordan	Emergency Medicine Foundation	Capacity Building Grant	2024	$93,337		Capacity Building Grant
Jordan, Eeles, Fraser, Tronstad, Mills, Thomas, Gilbert, Thomes, Tran, Worthy, Teodorczuk, Dissanyaka	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	A validation study of a novel and digital Delirium scREening tool in An eMergency department (DREAM): Bringing the diagnosis and management of delirium into the 21st century	2025	$49,843		Project Grant
Kubanova	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Effects of acute septic shock resuscitation on hepatic perfusion and function	2024	$12,000	$12,000	Project Grant
Kumar	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Body composition Analysis in adults with Cystic Fibrosis	2024	$15,000		Equipment Grant
Kumar	Queensland Health Clinician Research Fellowship	Metabolic Mastery: enabling adults with cystic fibrosis to live healitier for longer	2024 -2026	$171,000		Fellowship
Kumar	Cystic Fibrosis Australia	Randomised cross-over trial evaluating glycaemic, clinical and psychometric effects with continuous glucose monitoring in adults with Cystic Fibrosis Related Diabetes	2024 -2026	$40,000		Project Grant
Le	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Understanding of mitochondrial function during hypothermic machine perfusion in 'donation after circulatory death' heart transplantation	2024	$9,664	$9,664	Project Grant
Li Bassi, For, Obonyo, Heinsar, Liu, Sato, Gandini, Ro, Ijuin, Farah, Ainola, Sato, Lundon, Schneider, McGiffin, Abbate, Zhang, Portatadino, Milani, Lloyd, Nonaka, Hoshino, Redmond, Garlick, Bouquet, Wilson, Passmore, Hyslop, See Hoe, Skeggs, Panduru, Fior	Heart Foundation	Biofluid-induced lung injury: Appraising a novel pathogenic mechanism in acute respiratory distress syndrome	2023-2024	$24,990	$24,990	Project Grant
Loel, Herd, Matson	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Exploring PEG feeding cessation & removal in adults with CF	2023-2024	$10,000	$10,000	Project Grant
Lui	Japan Society for Promotion of Science	A novel and Innovative Therapeutic Stategy for Severe Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome during Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation support - Amendment	2023-2024	$103,990	$103,990	Fellowship
Lutzky	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	RF2021-11 Targeted molecular approaches for the treatment of idopathic pulmonary fibrosis	2022-2025	$330,000	$110,000	Fellowship
Lutzky, Apte, Divithotawela, Rochner	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	INN2023-40 Oxidised cholesterols as key mediators of fibrotic lung disease	2023-2025	$98,500		Project Grant
Mackintosh	National Health and Medical Research Council	Accelerating precision medicine for PF: characterising the high-risk PF genetic landscape	2024-	$4,541,620		Project Grant

Active Grants 2024 continued...

Chief Investigators	Granting Agency	Project Title	Years of Funding	Total Funding Awarded	Funding received for 2024	Grant Type
Mackintosh	Medical Research Future Fund	Genomic approaches for better outcomes in pulmonary fibrosis: addressing the knowledge gap.	2023-	$2,946,132		Project Grant
Marshall	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Extracellular vesicle -microRNAs for lung cancer screening	2023-2024	$10,000		Project Grant
Marshall	National Health and Medical Research Council	Enhancing smoking cessation with an innovative mobile health avatar	2020-2024	$457,067		Project Grant
Marshall et al	Medical Research Future Fund	"Max Up" Trial – Maximising uptake of lung cancer screening and smoking cessation outcomes	2023-2026	$917,239.91 plus matched funding		Project Grant
Marshall, Bendotti	MNHHS SWIFT	Vaping cessation support from a smartphone app: extending the 'Quin' chatbot	2024	$14,839		Project Grant
Matson, Muggeridge	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Effectiveness of CF Intensive Bowel prep & Colorectal cancer screening in adults with CF	2024-2025	$11,300	$11,300	Project Grant
Mattison	Digital Health Cooperative Research Centre	Integrating Wearable Devices into the Patient-Centred Digital Healthcare Environment	2021-2024	$135,000	$45,000	Scholarship
McCall	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Factors impacting on doctors from an Adults Emergency Department reporting child safety concerns: a systematic study.	2024 -2029	$100,923		Scholarship
McGiffin, McCully, Suen, Celik	Heart Foundation	Mitochondrial Transplantation as a supplementary therapy for heart transplantation: A Novel Strategy to Enhance Donor Heart Function	2024-2027	$149,288	$49,762	Project Grant
McGiffin, See Hoe, Li Bassi, Suen, Macdonald	National Health and Medical Research Council	Hypothermic machine perfusion of circulatory death hearts for transplantation	2023-2026	$2,062,431	$687,477	Project Grant
McInerney	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Identifying differentially expressed cardiac injury markers in the coronary sinus of Donation After Circulatory Death (DCD) hearts compared with peripheral expression	2024	$11,906	$11,906	Project Grant
Mills	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Attitudes, beliefs and knowledge of multidisciplinary Emergency Department (ED) staff towards Recognising, Responding and Referring to Domestic and Family Violence (DFV). Codesigning resources incorporating DFV Victim survivor wishes	2025	$12,000		Project Grant
Molenaar	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation, Sheila Donation	Advancing knowledge of the cause of sudden death in patients with heart failure	2024	$600,000	$600,000	Equipment Grant
Molenaar, Siriwardena, Chan, Richards, Pemberton, Cheeseman	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	The effects of human B-Type natriuretic peptide signal peptide (BNPsp) in human atrial tissue in an in vitro model of ischaemia reperfusion injury (IRI)	2023-2025	$44,273	$7,291	Capacity Building Grant
Nolan	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Forced Oscillometry Technique to provide early detection and improved management of pulmonary exacerbations in adults with cystic fibrosis.	2023-2024	$10,000		Project Grant
Nonaka, Siriwardena, Zangerl, Tronstad, Platts, Obonyo, Suen, Lavana, Chan, Scalia, Fraser	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Load Incorporating Cardiac Assessment by Echocardiography to Refine Outcome Predictions in Patients with SEpsis: Prospective Multicentre Study (LIAISE study)	2024-2026	$98,400		Project Grant

Chief Investigators	Granting Agency	Project Title	Years of Funding	Total Funding Awarded	Funding received for 2024	Grant Type
Obonyo	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Microvascular endotheliopathy: A final common pathway in critical illness? (Novel investigation to reduce inflammatory injury to the blood vessels in critical illness)	2021-2025	$330,000	$110,000	Fellowship
O'Keefe, Turley	Metro North & Metro South Allied Health Offices	Medical Imaging Fundamentals - scatter correction technology and its uses within radiography practice.	2024 - 2025	$6,000	$4,000	Project Grant
Pan	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Impact of Blood Flow Dynamics on endocrine function of Lung Epithelial and Endothelial Cell: Pulsatile vs. Continuous Flow Analysis	2024	$11,901	$11,901	Project Grant
Pearse	CSL Behring (Australia) Pty Ltd	Use of three-factor prothrombin complex concentrate in cardiac surgery	2020-unlimited	$10,000		Industry Sponsored
Pearse, Naidoo, Ziegenfuss, Smith, Vincent, O'Brien	National Health and Medical Research Council	"The Cryopreserved vs. Liquid Platelets trial: CLIP-II A phase III multicentre blinded randomised controlled clinical non-inferiority trial of cryopreserved platelets vs. conventional liquid-stored platelets for the management of surgical bleeding"	2023	$1,825,647.60		Project Grant
Pearse, Rushbrook, Gardner, Perel, Fung	National Blood Authority	Implementation of a Standard 7 - Blood Management Dashboard for Metro North, Hospital and Health Service	2023-2025	$155,000		Project Grant
Pham	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	RF2022-07 Pathways to treat intractable lung infection	2022-2025	$330,000	$110,000	Fellowship
Pham	Emergency Medicine Foundation	The Utility of POCUS by Novice Clinicians in Diagnosing Heart Failure Project	2025	$39,835		Project Grant
Pham	Australian Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust	New pathways to treat intractable lung infection in lung transplant recipients with CF	2023-2024	$48,074	$8,012	Project Grant
Ranasinghe	Queensland Advancing Clincial Research Fellowship	Urinary Sodium Guided Titration of Diuretic Therapy.	2022-2025	$350,000		Fellowship
Ranasinghe, Ngo, Peng	National Heart Foundation of Australia	Outcomes of cardiovascular care in regional and remote Australian communities: Actionable data to drive policy and advocacy to reduce inequality	2024–2025	$150,000		Project Grant
Ranasinghe, Woodman, Kaambwa, Kotwal, Aliprandi-Costa	National Health and Medical Research Council	Safety, effectiveness of care and resource use among Australian hospitals (Safer Hospitals).	2021–2025	$1,108,000		Project Grant
Reid and the ACFC team	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Analysis of genetic, immune and infective processes underpinning clinical phenotypes, disease progression and response to CFTR modulators in cystic fibrosis	2023-2025	$131,000	$131,000	Capacity Building Grant
Reid, Miles, Yang, Firth, Burke, Chauray, Le Feuvre, Brown, Forrester, Waddell	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Prognostics, Diagnostics and Therapeutic targets in response to infectious threats to the Australian population; (Phase 1) COVID-19.	2020-2024	$100,000	$70,000	Project Grant
Reid, Smith, Bell	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	A Multi-modality, multi-disciplinary program of research to improve disease outcomes in Cystic Fibrosis	2018-2025	$600,000	$200,000	Project Grant
Rogers	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Parental Analysis and Reasoning when Visiting Emergency Departments with Children for Non-Emergent Treatment (PARENT)	2025	$12,000		Project Grant

Active Grants 2024 continued...

Chief Investigators	Granting Agency	Project Title	Years of Funding	Total Funding Awarded	Funding received for 2024	Grant Type
Scott, Royse, Hu, Fraser, Mazer, Shehata, Bannon, Isbister	Medical Research Future Fund	Transfusion Triggers in Cardiac Surgery Australia trial (TRICS-IV)	2020-2025	$869,566	$173,913	Project Grant
Segal, Szollosi, Winter	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	A pre-post trial evaluating the impact of co-designed educational materials on health literacy and Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) compliance in patients with Obstructive Sleep Apnoea (OSA)	2023-2024	$10,000		Project Grant
Short, Gras, Good-Jacobson, Trau, Fraser, Carney, Erikson, Suen, Palpant, Smith, Bindra, Huang, Annesley, D'Orsgona, Wuethrich	Medical Research Future Fund	ALL IN - AI and Laboratory Led IdentificatioN of PASC(Post-Acute Sequelae of COVID-19)	2024-2029	$999,476	$199,895	Project Grant
Shrestha, Shrestha, Joshi, Smith, Naidoo, Hopkins, Kennedy, Sedgewick, Hamilton-Craig	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Rheumatic Fever and Rheumatic Heart Disease; Quantum of Public Awareness as a Tool for Primary Prevention of the disease: A Pilot Study	2023-25	$10,000.00	$6,600	Project Grant
Sly, Wainwright, Bell, Reid et al	CF Foundation (USA)	Early life origins of CF lung disease	2019-2021 (extended to end 2024)	$USD1.65 million	$840,520	Project Grant
Smith	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	EMBRACE: Exploring the relationship between EMotional well-Being with health outcomes and patient pReferences for resources and support in cArdiaC surgEry	2020-2025	$10,000.00		Project Grant
Spratt	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Developing and validating a model of human arrhythmia via human-induced pluripotent stem cell-cardiomyocytes for high-throughput drug screening	2024-2027	$330,000		Fellowship
Stephens	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation and The University of Queensland	Replacement of cassette printer	2024	$33,396		Equipment Grant
Stephens, Yang	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Extracellular-vesicles derived RNA biomarkers of lung cancer in never-smokers for early cancer detection	2024-2026	$100,000		Project Grant
Suen, Semenzin, Kanagarajan, Passmore, Smalcova	National Health and Medical Research Council	Pulsatile-Readiness of ECMO	2024	$914,405		Project Grant
Szollosi	MNHHS SWIFT Grant	Sleep disorders and treatment compliance in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in South-East Queensland	2024	$14,729	$14,729	Project Grant
Szollosi, Eeles, Curtin, Fripp, Coulson	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Obstructive Sleep Apnoea in Mild Cognitive Impairment: an opportunity to preserve brain health	2018-2024	$79,300	$16,945	Project Grant
Taylor, Bell, Rogers	CF Australia Dorothy Nell Marzol Innovation Grant	Australian-wide surveillance for fungal infection: a nation al metagenomic analysis across 19 CF centres	2022-2024	$80,000	$40,000	Project Grant
Thomson, Ahmed, Guo, Bell, Burke, Jackson	HeIDI/CSIRO (AMR Mission)	Eliminating opportunistic pathogens from premise plumbing biofilms in healthcare facilities	2022-2024	$150,000	$110,000	Project Grant
Tronstad	QH - Office of Research and Innovation	ICU of the Future	2021-2024	$100,000	$8,333	Fellowship
Tronstad, Fraser	Motor Accident Insurance Commission	ICU of the Future – TPCH implementation evaluation	2024-2025	$244,084	$61,021	Industry Sponsored

Chief Investigators	Granting Agency	Project Title	Years of Funding	Total Funding Awarded	Funding received for 2024	Grant Type
Tronstad, Fraser, Flaws, Brown, Hay, Koga, Sato, Liu, Sutt	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	eDIS-ICU – an international validation study to improve accuracy of screening for delirium in the ICU	2021 (extended until 2025)	$35,312	$8,547	Project Grant
Tronstad, Fraser, Latu, Flaws, Gachon, Hansen, Rodriguez	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Can sleep and circadian physiological disruptions caused by the intensive care unit environment be prevented by environmental and lighting modifications?	2022 (extended until 2025)	$62,019	$29,527	Project Grant
Vincent	Fisher and Paykel	Treating bronchiectasis patients with humidifiers	2024 onwards	$100,000		Industry Sponsored
Wadhwa	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Child Life Therapy Project	2024	$10,000		Project Grant
Wainwright, Bell, Reid, Sly et al	CF Foundation (USA)	FORMAT adaptive study of Mycobacterium abscessus in lung disease	2020-2024	$USD4 million	$1,528,218	Project Grant
Walweel	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Advancing knowledge of the cause of sudden death in patients with heart failure	2023-2026	$245,000	$75,000	Fellowship
Wells, Ledger, Smith	Conquer Cystic Fibrosis	Understanding and counteracting antibody-mediated inflammation driving lung damage	2023-2024	$49,813	$25,000	Project Grant
Wilson	Metro North - University of Queensland	High resolution measurement of sleep position during pregnancy and the impact on infant birthweight	2023-2024	$47,268	$17,865	Project Grant
Winearls, Smith, Tronstad, Tuxen, Saidy, Fraser	Wesley Research Institute	Creating artificial intelligence solutions to enable the early detection and prevention of adverse events associated with mechanical ventilation	2023 - 2026	$103,000		Project Grant
Wu, Tronstad, Fraser, Francia, Suen, Stephens, Fanning	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Towards Equitable Monitoring in the ICU - Reducing Racial Bias of Pulse Oximeters with Correctice Algorithms	2025-2026	$95,555		Project Grant
Wu, Tronstad, Fraser, Francia, Suen, Stephens, Fanning	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	FAIR (Facilitating Advanced, Impartial and Responsible) Algorithms for Pulse Oximetry	2024	$95,556	$95,556	Project Grant
Yang	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Characterising the Impact of Sustained Neurological Injury on Cardiac Mitochondrial Integrity and Function in Donation After Circulatory Death (DCD)	2024	$11,342	$11,342	Project Grant
Yang	National Health and Medical Research Council	Testing the lung microbiome to predict risk of frequent exacerbations in COPD	2015 onwards	$666,052		Project Grant
Yang, Shaw, Krause	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Changes in the lung microbiome with use of inhaled steroids in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)	2024-2025	$100,000		Project Grant
Yang, Varnfield, Li, Khair, Francis, McDonald, Dabscheck	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	Transforming the care of people living with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) using digital health: an implementation feasibility study	2023-2024	$99,940		Project Grant
Zhang	The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation	An exploration of protein profile underlying the therapeutic effect of hydrogen gas in an ovine model of severe acute lung injury	2024	$11,800	$11,800	Project Grant

Higher Degree Students Supervised During 2024

Full Name	Postgraduate Course	Research Project Title	University affiliation	Supervisors
Adele van den Hoek	PhD	Mobile health for secondary prevention of Diabetes-related foot ulceration	Queensland University of Technology	Lazzarini, Ploderer, Evans
Alex Terrill	PhD	Application of advanced design and manufacture techniques in the mechanical offloading of tissue stress for management of diabetic foot ulceration.	Queensland University of Technology	Woodruff, Lazzarini, Powell, Holmes
Alexandra Childs	PhD	Non-invasive Ventilation for the treatment of nocturnal hypoventilation in Myotonic Dystrophy	University of Queensland	Szollosi
Alita Rushton	PhD	Post-discharge home meal provision for hip fracture patients	Griffith University	Bell, Morris, Roberts
Amber Jones	PhD	Development and evaluation of telehealth service models for the delivery of multidisciplinary burn care	University of Queensland	Burns, Ward
Andrew Burke	PhD	Pharmacokinetics of Antimycobacterial Drugs in Patients with Cystic Fibrosis and Latent Tuberculosis	University of Queensland	Roberts, Thomson, Smith, Bell
Asha Bonney	PhD	Lung cancer screening with low-dose computed tomography; adding value by promoting physical activity, optimising early coronary artery disease detection, and recognising psychosocial impact in Australia	University of Melbourne	Manser, Irving, Steinfort, Marshall, Fong
Carl Francia	PhD	Acute Rheumatic Fever and Rheumatic Heart Disease in Queensland between 2001 to 2021: A Retrospective Cohort Data Linkage Study.	University of Queensland	Johnston, Fraser, Justo, Katzenellenbogen
Carla Doe Reis	MPhil	Traumatic Brain Injury and the Return to Productive Activities: Barriers, Facilitators and Opportunities	University of Queensland	Gullo, Fleming, Liddle
Cassandra Vale	MPhil	Determining beta-lactam Exposure targets in Patients with deep-seated infections	University of Queensland	Cotta
Donna Hickling	PhD	Does nutrition impact lung transplant outcomes?	University of Queensland	Walsh, Chambers, Bauer
Edward Stephens	PhD	Biomarkers of lung cancer in never-smokers	University of Queensland	Yang, Fong, Chee
Edwina Duhig	MPhil	Interstitial microenvironment in pulmonary disease including non-small cell lung carcinoma	University of Queensland	Yang, Fong
Eloise Shaw	PhD	Screening for Biomarkers in Non -small Cell Lung Cancer	University of Queensland	Fong, Bowman, Yang
Emma Ledger	PhD	Helpful and harmful immune responses in the cystic fibrosis lung	University of Queensland	Well, Smith, Reid
George Tay	PhD	Reducing infection transmission risk in people with cystic fibrosis	University of Queensland	Bell, Thomson, Reid
Gerard Olive	PhD	Interventional Bronchoscopy	University of Queensland	Fong, Marshall, Yang
Giovanna Tornatore	PhD	Rehabilitation intensity for patients with upper limb impairment - what is the impact on occupational performance?	University of Queensland	Gullo, Fleming
Graeme Mattison	PhD	Integrating Wearable Devices into the Patient-Centred Digital Healthcare Environment	University of Queensland	Dobbins, Smith, Reid, Forrester
Hannah Jepson	MRes	New Zealand podiatrist's alignment with current international best practice guidelines for the diabetic foot: The New Zealand Diabetic Foot assessment and management survey	Auckland Univeristy of Technology	Carroll, Garrett, Lazzarini
Heather Allen	MPhil	Master of Philosophy - Student	Queensland University of Technology	Edwards, McMahon, Powell
Helen Wallace	PhD	How can we help people with aphasia return to driving following stroke?	University of Queensland	Wallace, Gullo, Copland

Higher Degree Students Supervised During 2024 continued...

Full Name	Postgraduate Course	Research Project Title	University affiliation	Supervisors
Hollie Bendotti	PhD	Artificial Intelligence for smoking Cessation : Development and Effectiveness of Quinn, a Smoking Cessation Smartphone Chatbot	University of Queensland	Marshall, Gartner, Ireland, Lawler
Hwei Lan Tan	PhD	Using experience-based co-design to explore smartphone and app use by people with vision impairment and develop a web-based training and learning support resource toolkit	University of Queensland	Aplin, Gullo, McAuliffe
Iain Smith	PhD	Relationship between post-exercise oxygen kinetics and outcomes in chronic cardiorespiratory disease	Griffith University	Morris, Sabapathy
Iza Linders	PhD	The impact of lighting on sleep quality in ICU patients	Queensland University of Technology	Garcia-Hansen, Rodriguez, Tronstad
Jake McMahon	PhD	De-implementation of low-value pressure injury prevention and management	Australian Catholic University	Fulbrook, Lam, Straiton, McInnes, Wan, Rodgers
Janet Shaw	PhD	The lung microbiome in COPD	University of Queensland	Yang, Fong, Bowman
Jazmin Mireya Guayco Sigcha	PhD	Blood Biomarkers in Lung Cancer Screening	University of Queensland	Marshall, Fong, Yang, Chee
Jessica Ball	MPhil	Preoperative physiotherapy education for patients undergoing thoracic surgery	Griffith University	Morris, Tronstad, Baque
Jinyang Yang	Honours	Characterising the Impact of Sustained Neurological Injury on Cardiac Mitochondrial Integrity and Function in Donation after Circulatory Death	University of Queensland	Suen, McInerney
Joshua Monteith	PhD	Improving Plasmapheresis: Characterising the immunoglobulin response following chronic P. aeruginosa lung infection	University of Queensland	Wells, Apte, Henderson
Julie Nguyen	MRes	Implementation Evaluation of High Risk Foot Services in relation to Access, Intake and Patient Journey in Two Settings	University of Melbourne	McKenzie, Ho, Lazzarini
Kathleen Hall	PhD	Evaluation of the inclusion of an allied health assistant within an Adult Cystic Fibrosis Centre: their role, scope of practice, and impact on physiotherapy services.	Australian Catholic University	Kuys, Maxwell, Roll, Cobb
Kian Alexander	MRes	Does the addition of virtual reality while exercising in ICU increase patient motivation and participation in exercise therapy?	Griffith University	Morris, Tronstad, Baque
Kiara Knuckey	Honours	Herpesvirus Immune Responses in Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis	University of Queensland	Apte, Doolan, Sarathkumara, Lutzky
Kirsten Dous	MRes	How Can I Help? Hospital Physiotherapy Care for People with Idiopathic Parkinson's Disease Post Hip Fractures: Retrospective Chart Review	Griffith University	Morris, Kuys, Walsh
Kristin Gomes	PhD	Improving nutrition care for malnourished patients: a knowledge translation approach	Griffith University	Bell, Desbrow, Roberts
LaiYing Zhang	PhD	The Transcriptomic Landscape of Telomere Attrition in Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis	University of Queensland	Chambers, Nguyen
Levi Hockey	PhD	Development of Multimodal Machine Learning Tools for Precision Pulmonary Fibrosis Care	University of Queensland	Nguyen, Chambers
Linh Ngo	PhD	Population-wide outcomes of catheter ablation of atrial fibrillation	University of Queensland	Ranasinghe, Yang
Luke Churchill	PhD	Can lung ultrasound predict post-operative pulmonary complications in the adult cardiac surgery population, alter physiotherapy practice and decrease treatment times?	University of Queensland	Mandrusiak, Tronstad, Thomas
Maddie Hall	PhD	Sociodemographic and psychosocial influences of adults' use of positive airway pressure therapy in obstructive sleep apnoea	Griffith University	Winter
Marissa Daniels	PhD	Precision medicine in the genomic era: emerging technologies for molecular profiling	University of Queensland	Fong
Maryam Khorramshahi Bayat	PhD	Evaluating the role of urinary sodium in the management of heart failure	University of Queensland	Ranasinghe, Chan

Full Name	Postgraduate Course	Research Project Title	University affiliation	Supervisors
Maureen Peasey	MPhil	Pulmonary Rehabilitation and Physical Activity in COPD	Griffith University	Morris, Walsh
Michelle Garrett	PhD	Identifying early warnings and system changes that may reduce the burden of diabetes related foot complications in Aotearoa/ New Zealand	University of Auckland	Kenealy, Murphy, Lazzarini
Nikita Patel	MPhil	Osteoporosis diagnosis and fracture prediction using CT vertebral attenuation in lung cancer screening	University of Queensland	Marshall, Fong, Yang, O'Rourke, Dahler
Nimantha Durage	PhD	Investigating cognitive functioning in people with diabetes-related foot ulcers in Queensland, Australia: A prospective longitudinal study	Queensland University of Technology	Finlayson, Parker, Lazzarini, MacAndrew
Oystein Tronstad	PhD	The ICU of the Future - evaluating implementation of a new ICU bedspace environment and outcomes for organisations, staff and patients	University of Queensland	Fraser, Flaws, Mandrusiak
Peter Bell	PhD	Immune Regulation of Lung Injury: Pathways to Repair, Restoration and Fibrosis	University of Queensland	Belz, Chambers
Quan Li	PhD	Burden of Diabetes Hospitalisations and Complications	University of Queensland	Ranasinghe and Ngo
Rachael McCall	MPhil	Decision Making in an Adults Emergency Department regarding child protection concerns	University of Queensland	Healy, Cullin
Sami Ness	PhD	Contemporary Management of Malnutrition in patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)	University of Queensland	Bell, Collins
Saniya Rodrigues	PhD	The effect of heat stress on older persons with and without heart failure.	Griffith University	Morris, O'Connor, Bach
Sarah Davies	PhD	Exploring an occupation-based metacognitive strategy approach to improve occupational performance, executive functioning and self-efficacy of adults with Parkinson's Disease	University of Queensland	Gullo, Doig
Sarah Mackay	PhD	Exploring Perspectives on Malnutrition Terminology	University of Queensland	Young, Bell
Saroeun Ven	PhD	Development of a pressure injury risk assessment tool for palliative care patients in the acute hospital setting	Australian Catholic University	Fulbrook, Burston, Steele, Lovegrove, Miles, Prince
Sohail Ahmad	PhD	Smoking stigma	University of Queensland	Gartner, Morphett, Marshall, Richards
Sophie Deeth	PhD	Nutrition Care for Older Adults with Delirium	University of Queensland	Bell, Mudge
Sucharitha Rangi Weerasuriya	PhD	Predicting foot-related hospitalisation and cost-of-care outcomes: A retrospective data linkage cohort study	Queensland University of Technology	Lazzarini, Cramb, Zhang
Tanya Palmer	PhD	The validity of a test to measure exertional breathlessness in chronic disease	Griffith University	Morris, Walsh
Thomas Georgeson	PhD	Detecting risk of dementia in people with sleep apnoea	University of Queensland	Szollosi
Trang Dang	PhD	Health Care Costs Associated with Avoidable Hospitalisations	University of Queensland	Ranasinghe, Chan, Gannon
Tyler Gilstrom	PhD	Identification of viral versus bacterial triggers in immune cells from AECOPD patients	James Cook University	Warner, Reid
Usha Gurunathan	PhD	Perioperative thrombotic changes and outcomes in patients undergoing total hip and knee arthroplasty.	University of Queensland	Eley, Mullany
Yu Takizawa	PhD	Addressing children's mental health issues in Japanese schools: Is online teacher training for neuroscience-informed mental health intervention effective?	University of Queensland	Teoh


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Publications

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