

Centre for the Advancement of Clinical Research

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Prof. Lawrie Powell AC Director, Research Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

Overview

The Centre for the Advancement of Clinical Research continues to expand, reflecting the increase in research activity on campus. It promotes innovative clinical research within the district, assists current and future researchers participating in research programmes and provides links between researchers and funding opportunities, including the RBWH Foundation, UQCCR, QIMR, QUT and the Office of Health and Medical Research. The Centre is complementary to, and liaises closely with, the RBWH Foundation whose key role is to raise funds for research and manage any grants placed through the Foundation.

The Centre assists researchers in the preparation of applications for funding and ethical approval of research. Applications for research funding are facilitated by administrative staff familiar with the relevant legal, ethical, regulatory, scientific and financial requirements for research activity within the complex. All applications are then reviewed by the Research Advisory Committee (see below).

In accordance with the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007), RBWH has separated the functions of ethical and scientific review, which is undertaken by the RBWH Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) from those activities which fall into the realm of research governance. This is the framework by which an institution oversees and administers research to ensure that it complies with relevant legislation and meets appropriate standards of quality, safety, privacy, risk and financial management. These activities are increasing substantially as the research activities on campus increase in number and complexity.

In 2011, the centre continued to assume the role of coordinating the review process of low and negligible risk research, processing more than 100 applications. This activity has been facilitated by the appointment of Anitha Dinesh who has appropriate background in business and finance.

Research Advisory Committee

Following the recommendations of the Ryan Review in 2004, a Research Advisory Committee was established to advise the hospital on matters of research and research funding and also to advise the RBWH Foundation on the allocation of grants. The composition of the Research Advisory Committee for 2011 is as follows:

- Emeritus Professor Mervyn Eadie AO MD, PhD (Chair), Professor Emeritus The University of Queensland and Chair, Queensland Health Central Human Research Ethics Committee
- Professor Lawrie Powell AC MD, PhD, DUniv (Griff), FRACP, FRCP (London), FRCPT, Director, Research, RBWH
- Professor Ron Dickinson BSc Hons, PhD, Professorial Research Fellow and Director, Centre for Studies in Drug Disposition, The University of Queensland
- Adjunct Associate Professor Lesley Fleming OAM Executive Director, Nursing and Midwifery Services, RBWH
- Professor Murray Mitchell DPhil, DSc, FRSNZ, Director, The University of Queensland Centre for Clinical Research
- Professor Denis Moss BSc, PhD, Senior Principal Research Fellow, Queensland Institute of Medical Research
- Dr Jacobus Ungerer MBChB, MMed (Chem Pat), MBL, FRCPA, A/Director, Chemical Pathology, Pathology Queensland
- Dr Ian Wilkey MBBS, BSc, LLB, FRCPA, FAFPHM, Chair, QIMR Ethics Committee
- Professor Glenn Gardner RN, PhD, FRCNA, Professor of Clinical Nursing, Director RBWH/QUT Centre for Clinical Nursing
- Dr Peter Roeser MD, FRACP, FRCPA, Retired Physician, The University of Queensland Department of Medicine
- Professor Robert Tindle PhD, Professor Emeritus, The University of Queensland; Former Director, Sir Albert Sakzewski Virus Research Centre, RCH and Clinical Medical Virology Centre, The University of Queensland

Research staff

Name	Qualifications	Position	Interests/specialities
Prof. Lawrie Powell AC	MD, PhD, DUniv (Griff), FRACP, FRCP (Lond), FRCPT	Director, Research	liver disease, haemochromatosis. research and research governance
Jennifer Lonton	BN, BBus, GCHM	Research Support Officer	research governance
John Hewett	GDBA, GCM	Business Manager, Research and Special Projects	financial management
Anitha Dinesh	MBA	Administration Officer	financial management
Estelle Ellis		Personal Assistant to the Director	

Research grants

Investigators	Project title	Granting body	Amount awarded	Years of funding
McLaren C et al. (Six centres including QIMR)	Genetic modifiers of iron status in haemochromatosis HFE C282Y homozygotes	National Institutes of Health	\$US265, 190	2011-2012
Anderson GJ, Walter P, Powell LW, Ramm GA, Subramaniam VN	Assessment of oxidant stress and mitochondrial dysfunction in young adults with iron loading diseases	NHMRC Project Grant 613689	\$591,525	2010-2012
Gurrin LC, Olynyk JK, Powell LW	Environmental risk factors for iron overload-related disease in a cohort study of hereditary haemochromatosis	NHMRC Project Grant 628697	\$149,013	2010-2011

Publications

Bertalli NA, Allen KJ, McLaren CE, Turkovic L, Osborne NJ, Constantine CC, Delatycki MB, English DR, Giles GG, Hopper JL, Anderson GJ, Olynyk JK, Powell LW, Gurrin LC and for the HealthIron Study Investigators. A comparison of self-reported and record-linked blood donation history in an Australian cohort. Transfusion. 2011;10:1537-1549.

Bacon BR, Adams PC, Kowdley KV, Powell LW, Tavill AS. Diagnosis and management of hemochromatosis: 2011 Practice Guideline by the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases. Hepatology. 2011;54(1):328-43.

Eng KG, Powell LW, Olynyk JK. Natural history and management of HFE hemochromatosis. Seminars in Liver Disease. 2011;31(3): 293-301.

Skoien R, Powell LW. HFE-associated Hereditary Hemochromatosis (Chapter 19). In Iron Physiology and Pathophysiology in Humans. Eds: Anderson GJ and McLaren G. Springer, New York. 2011;385-398.



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