Official launch of the Queensland Mental Health Research Alliance

FRIDAY 4 OCTOBER 2013

PROGRAM

Optimising mental health research in Queensland – the way forward

9:00 – 10:30am Opening – Chair Frank Gannon

- Intro to QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute – Michael Breakspear
- Intro to Queensland Brain Institute – Perry Bartlett
- Intro to Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research – John McGrath

Introduction of Hon. Dr Chris Davis MP, Assistant Minister for Health, Member for Stafford (previously Director of Geriatric Medicine PCH, past president of AMA Queensland) by Professor Frank Gannon

Opening words by Dr Chris Davis MP

Keynote address
The Global Burden of Mental Health Disorder – the extent of the problem – Harvey Whiteford

10:30 – 11:00am Morning tea

SESSION 1

Mental disorders – where are the strengths and where are the gaps?

11:00 – 12:30pm 
- Psychosis – Bryan Mowry (QBI)
- Depression – Michael Breakspear (Metro North Mental Health and QIMR Berghofer)
- Dementia – Jürgen Götz (QBI)
- Addiction – Mark Daglish (UQ)

Comorbid physical health problems in those with mental disorders – the extent of the problem – Steve Kisely (UQ)

Comorbid physical health problems in those with mental disorders – consequences and interventions – Brett Emmerson (Metro North Mental Health)

General discussion

12:30 – 1:30pm Lunch
SESSION 2

Methods and technologies

1:30 – 3:00pm

Genetic Epidemiology – Nick Martin (QIMR Berghofer)

Molecular Epidemiology – Naomi Wray (QBI, QIMR Berghofer)

Herston Imaging Research Facility (HIRF) – Michael Breakspear (Metro North Mental Health and QIMR Berghofer)

Imaging at CAI – David Reutens (QBI)

Molecular and cellular neuroscience – Pankaj Sah (QBI)

Animal models of psychiatric disorders – Darryl Eyles (UQ)

Neuroimaging Genetics – Margie Wright (QIMR Berghofer)

SESSION 3

Summary and integration

3:00 – 3:30pm

General discussion and future directions - Co-chairs: John McGrath and Michael Breakspear

3:30pm

Afternoon tea and informal discussion

Queensland Mental Health Research Alliance

Three of Queensland’s top health research institutes have joined forces to advance the understanding of mental disorders and improve outcomes for patients. The QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, the Queensland Brain Institute (QBI) and the Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research (QCMHR) have formed the Queensland Mental Health Research Alliance.

The aims of the Alliance are:

- strengthen existing collaborations
- identify which mental health disorders should be targeted for more research
- nurture the next generation of clinical researchers.

At the official launch of the Alliance, we will hear about:

- the burden of disability associated with mental health disorders
- 'big picture' overviews of key disorders
- 'snap-shot' summaries of key techniques, resources and skills

We need your input on how this new alliance can meet its goals.

- How can we better synergise current research to leverage productivity
- How can we attract new funding to build the research portfolio?
- How can we attract and train the next generation of psychiatric researchers?

We are looking for creative and constructive input. We hope you can contribute!