

QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute Strategic Plan 2017 – 2021

QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute aims to improve health by developing prevention strategies, new diagnostics and better health treatments.

Our mission

Better health through medical research

Our vision

To be a world renowned medical research institution that translates discoveries into clinical practice

Our objectives

1. Foster scientific excellence

Key strategies

- Recognise and reward scientific excellence.
- Improve employment security for faculty.
- Fund early-stage research to leverage external grants.
- Ensure research authenticity.

2. Build scientific, institutional and international connectivity

Key strategies

- Establish a health economics capability and fill skill gaps in proteomics, epigenetics, mechanistic analyses and bio-informatics.
- Maintain strong relationships with the Herston campus and with universities.
- Support the Brisbane Diamantina Health Partners Health Research and Translational Medicine Centre concept, which brings together eight of Queensland's leading hospitals, universities and research institutes.
- Maintain and strengthen the Institute's Asia Strategy that seeks to identify opportunities for collaboration, partnerships and fundraising in Asia.
- Develop greater links with European and USA laboratories, building on ongoing collaborations.
- Continue to identify opportunities and support the delivery of international research conferences in Brisbane.

3. Undertake research with economic, clinical and community consequence

Key strategies

- Further develop the new 'Chronic Disorders' program and new interdisciplinary clusters.
- Consolidate the 'bench to biotech to bedside' into the philosophy and functioning of the Institute.
- Further develop the 'SEED Box' (Scientific Exploitation and Entrepreneurial Development) fund to support projects that have advanced beyond the proof-of-concept stage to help them grow toward commercialisation.
- Maintain the focus on translational research.
- Strengthen collaborations with clinical partners, especially those on the Herston campus.
- Undertake research of relevance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.
- Engage with our community of supporters relevant to our growing programs in cancer, infectious diseases, mental health and chronic disorders.

4. Strengthen enabling mechanisms

Key strategies

- Diversify income sources.
- Establish external philanthropy and stakeholder reference groups.
- Maintain expenditure on large-scale equipment.
- Ensure efficiency across all operations.

Contribution to government objectives

QIMR Berghofer contributes to the Queensland Government's objective of creating jobs and a diverse economy. The Institute is experiencing a period of accelerated growth. We are actively recruiting researchers in areas of high importance to Queensland—including tropical diseases, vaccine development, cancer and genetics—to increase its capacity to approximately 1000 staff and students, offering more than 300 new jobs in Queensland. Each of the four programs; Cancer, Infectious Diseases, Mental Health and Chronic Disorders, has been selected to align with the needs of Queensland.

We directly contribute to the Queensland Government's objectives relating to a stronger public health system and delivering quality frontline services by translating the knowledge we produce and discoveries we make into improved clinical practice, thereby strengthening our public health system. By advancing medical knowledge and improving public health, we also contribute to the Queensland Government's objective of building safe, caring and connected communities. Our research in cancer is particularly important given our ageing population. Our work in infectious diseases, especially tropical diseases, is vital given the increasing numbers of people living in the tropics and the pole-ward migration

of species due to climate change bringing tropical diseases closer to major population centres. Our research into mental health, such as dementia, Alzheimer's and depression, addresses rises in the incidence of these diseases due to demographic and social changes. Our work in our newly established Chronic Disorders program will address many of the health impacts associated with changes in our demographics and lifestyles. Our work is helping to broaden and deepen Queensland's economic base, especially in the high-value, high-growth health and medical sector.

QIMR Berghofer is a translational research facility, where research develops from the laboratory bench through to the patient's bedside. In developing our research, we promote and develop industry linkages, which is in keeping with our understanding that 'bench to bedside' incorporates a business phase. The Institute's research supports different Queensland scientific and medical sectors by researching and creating new and improved treatments and screening programs for various diseases and disorders.

QIMR Berghofer's research focuses on improving the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of a range of diseases and conditions relevant to Queenslanders, which will help address pressures facing the public health care sector, by lessening rates of disease, improving quality of life and health care practices.