QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute
Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022

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
   • Expand the ‘Chronic Disorders’ research program and fill skill gaps, particularly in the link between the gut immune system and disease.
   • Maintain strong relationships with the universities and the Herston campus and take an active involvement in the redevelopment of the Herston campus.
   • Actively participate in 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 US laboratories, building on ongoing collaborations.
   • Continue to identify opportunities and support the delivery of international research conferences in Brisbane.

Contribution to government objectives

QIMR Berghofer contributes to the Queensland Government’s objective of creating jobs in a strong economy. We are actively recruiting researchers in areas of high importance to Queensland — including tropical diseases, vaccine development, cancer and genetics — and have expanded to more than 900 scientists, visiting scientists, students and support staff. 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 of keeping Queenslanders healthy and giving all our children a great start by translating the knowledge we produce and discoveries we make into improved clinical practice, thereby strengthening our public health system. Our research in cancer and mental health 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, including health impacts affecting children. 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.
3. Undertake research with economic, clinical and community consequences

**Key strategies**

- Further develop new interdisciplinary clusters.
- Consolidate ‘bench to business to bedside (B2B2B)’ 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.
- Expand external stakeholder reference groups.
- Establish a major philanthropy campaign.
- Maintain expenditure on large-scale equipment.
- Ensure efficiency across all operations.

**Key opportunities**

- Continue to partner with key collaborating Institutions — including the Brisbane Diamantina Health Partners and the Queensland Genomics Health Alliance — to maximise the impact of the Institute’s research.
- Continue to tailor QIMR Berghofer’s research program to the needs of the community, including by seeking funding for nutrition research.
- Establish a reputation as a world-leading location for cell therapy development and manufacturing.
- Continue to diversify income stream through commercialisation, philanthropy and rental income.