Dementia

Adulthood and Childhood

New iron supplement for pregnant women

Clinical trials for better health
As we move into the second half of 2022, I’d like to acknowledge the incredible response to our annual tax appeal. Your generosity is supporting a host of remarkable discoveries, including pioneering work that could deliver the biggest breakthrough in dementia in 20 years. Our researchers are on the cusp of finding a way to more efficiently deliver drugs into the brains of people with dementia.

We know it’s not just the elderly impacted by this devastating disease. Our research also looks at the lesser known condition of childhood dementia and the desperate search for treatment options for children like eight-year-old Emily Lyons.

Advances in medicine would not be possible without clinical trials and, in this issue, we feature some of the remarkable research studies we support, the extraordinary participants, and the staff who make it possible.

We also feature updates of our latest research into COVID-19, pancreatic cancer detection, and a potential new treatment for iron deficiency in pregnancy.

Finally, we were honoured to welcome the Queensland Governor, Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young PSM, on her first official visit as Patron. Her Excellency is very familiar with the Institute having served for 14 years on the QIMR Berghofer Council. On her recent visit she paid tribute to the remarkable work underway at the Institute.

Once again, thank you from the bottom of my heart for your wonderful support, we hope you enjoy reading about some of the vital medical research aimed at saving lives and improving the quality of life, for so many.
Understanding dementia – in adulthood and childhood

New iron supplement for pregnant women

Clinical trials for better health

Research to help diagnose pancreatic cancer early

Relationship between acid reflux and COVID-19

Inspiring the scientists of the future

Our people: Rebecca Webster

Governor presents official Patronage Certificate to QIMR Berghofer

In the Spotlight: turning ground-breaking research into reality

QIMR Berghofer Community

Dementia in adulthood and childhood.

Illustration credit: Madeleine Kersting Flynn
Understanding dementia
In adulthood and childhood

Dementia describes a collection of symptoms that are caused by disorders affecting the brain. It is most common in people over the age of 65 years, but it is not a normal part of ageing.

What causes dementia?

Family history
Family history of Alzheimer’s increases your chance of developing the disease compared to those with no family history.

Age
After the age of 65 the risk of dementia, particularly Alzheimer’s, doubles every five years.

Genetics
Certain genes increase Alzheimer’s risk. You can get tested for some of these particular genes by asking your GP. A positive result does not mean you will get dementia, only that you have increased risk.

A neuroscientist’s personal fight

Driven by personal tragedy and inspired by an overwhelming desire to help people, QIMR Berghofer’s Associate Professor Anthony White has reached the threshold of his career-long goal, to find a successful treatment for dementia.

A neuroscientist before his mum developed Alzheimer’s disease, her death in 2007 galvanised his resolve to defeat this insidious disease.

“I was utterly helpless. My father would often ask if there were any new drugs coming, was there anything we could do to help. There wasn’t anything I could offer. It was incredibly painful and frustrating not being able to offer anything useful,” Associate Professor White said.

He is now confident of delivering one of the most exciting breakthroughs in dementia treatment in twenty years.
**Childhood dementia**

While dementia is most common in people over the age of 65 years, childhood dementia is a little-known but serious public health issue. Researchers at QIMR Berghofer believe a new study has raised hope of a potential new treatment for childhood dementia.

Batten disease is one of the most common forms of childhood dementia. It causes the progressive deterioration of brain cells and a range of severe symptoms such as a loss of the ability to walk and talk.

Associate Professor Anthony White’s team has received a $49,600 grant from the Batten Disease Support and Research Association (BDRSA) of Australia, to find drugs that can halt or slow progression of the neurological disorder.

“Childhood dementia is similar to adult dementia. It is always fatal and there are very few drug treatments available, so more research is desperately needed,” Associate Professor White said.

“We’re working to find drugs that treat Batten disease and other forms of childhood dementia. Drugs that can slow or halt the progression of disease and buy valuable time for these children and their families,” Associate Professor White said.

The QIMR Berghofer research is focused on drug repositioning - with drugs approved for other conditions, being repurposed to treat Batten disease and other childhood dementia disorders.

Professor Eske Derks and Dr Zachary Herring will use computer-based algorithms to analyse the genetics of childhood dementia and identify promising drugs for re-purposing as a potential treatment for childhood dementia.

Associate Professor White will then test the drugs on tiny model brains to validate the findings and the drugs’ impact on childhood dementia.

Dr Ineka Whiteman, Head of Research, Medical and Scientific Affairs at BDSRA said “their computer-based bioinformatics approach is a relatively novel approach in the Batten disease field. It could help make effective, desperately-needed treatments available to patients far sooner.”

“Every three days in Australia, a child is born with a childhood dementia disorder.”

**Dr Kris Elvidge**  
Head of Research  
Childhood Dementia Initiative

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**Emily’s Battle**

For Queensland mother Jessica Lyons, the research offers hope at a time when her family is faced with a heartbreaking lack of options. Her happy, cheeky eight-year-old daughter Emily has been diagnosed with one of the rarer forms of Batten disease.

“Before we got Emily’s diagnosis, we thought it would just be a matter of finding the issue so she could receive the right treatment and go on to live a reasonably normal life,” Ms Lyons said.

“But now we know Emily isn’t going to live until she’s an adult, she isn’t going to go to university or anything like that, and accepting that is really tough. Every week she is regressing further, and there’s absolutely nothing we can do,” she said.
Reducing your risk of dementia

There are some simple activities and lifestyle changes you can make to reduce your chances of dementia. What changes can you make to your current daily routine?

**EDUCATION/ACTIVE MIND**
The more years in education, the lower the risk of dementia. Learning can also slow progression of the disease.

- Read or listen to the radio/podcasts
- Do crosswords, puzzles
- Get involved in a community, sport, hobby activity

**SOCIALISE**
Social isolation can lead to loss of brain cell connections because of a lack of stimulation.

- Schedule in dates to stay in touch with family, friends and neighbours
- Volunteer with a local community group
- Consider adopting a pet

**STOP SMOKING**
Smoking releases toxins into the body that can damage brain cells.

- Discuss options with your GP to help with quitting
- Make a plan to quit with quit.org.au

**EXERCISE & WEIGHT**
Inactivity reduces the generation of brain stem cells in areas of the brain responsible for memory function.

- Move your body. Take up walking, dancing, or any enjoyable form of exercise
- Eat more fruit and vegetables

**SLEEP**
Sleep helps to remove toxins from the brain which is critical for maintaining healthy functioning of brain cells.

- Discuss with your GP if you are having trouble sleeping
- Regular exercise
- Reduce caffeine and alcohol

**BLOOD PRESSURE**
High blood pressure can cause damage to the small blood vessels in the brain that are used for memory function.

- Consult your GP about your blood pressure
- Cut back on caffeine
A world first study has found a potential new iron supplement for pregnant women may reduce some of the side effects associated with existing treatments.

Iron deficiency is a common condition in pregnancy - up to two thirds of pregnant women need iron supplements.

Iron deficiency can lead to serious complications such as:
- obesity
- hypertension
- cardiovascular disease
- diabetes

There are however some debilitating side effects associated with iron supplements, including abdominal pain, nausea, constipation, and diarrhoea. There is also growing evidence it negatively impacts a patient’s gut microbiome which creates other health issues.

“We found iron hydroxide adipate tartrate (IHAT) a promising new iron supplement for pregnant women. It was just as safe and effective at boosting iron levels, but with fewer adverse side effects,” Ms Helman said.

During her first pregnancy Pramila Maniam was iron deficient and didn’t understand why she was constantly feeling fatigued.

“I used to get brain fog and thought it was normal. By my third pregnancy I was taking iron supplements. I knew how important they were, but I often had bloating and constipation and felt terrible, so I would take the tablets every second day and the symptoms would improve,” she said.

“It is very common to be iron deficient and you really notice the difference when your iron levels are what they should be. It would be really good though if there were no side effects,” Pramila said.

The Head of QIMR Berghofer’s Molecular Nutrition Laboratory, Associate Professor David Frazer, said the next step is trials in pregnant women.

“The IHAT treatment is exciting because we’ve found there are less side effects, less stress on the body, and less damage to the microbiome of the gut.” Associate Professor Frazer said.

The findings of the study could have broader benefits with at least 10 per cent of Australian women likely to be deficient in iron.

The IHAT supplement was co-invented by Cambridge University’s Professor Jonathan Powell who collaborated with QIMR Berghofer’s Molecular Nutrition Laboratory to test its efficacy. Pharmaceutical company Nemysis owns the right to develop IHAT.
Clinical Trials for Better Health

New health interventions require rigorous testing through clinical trials to ensure they are safe, effective and improve the lives of patients.

In May, QIMR Berghofer celebrated Clinical Trials Week to raise awareness of the importance of clinical trials and research in healthcare. This coincided with International Clinical Trials Day on 20 May.

Clinical Trials Week is a time to thank clinicians, scientists and clinical trials staff who are committed to finding answers to important clinical questions, better medicines, interventions and cures.

“Clinical trials are crucial for both clinical medicine and also public health. It is how we answer questions about policy, but also how to treat people better and make sure that the treatments we’re delivering to people are safe,” said Dr Donald McLeod.

“I’m the principal investigator on a trial called the Thyro Pilot Trial. It’s a clinical trial to see whether combination therapy for underactive thyroid might allow people to feel better and be better than with current treatments,” he said.

“Having people involved in clinical trials allows us to improve care for people and hopefully cure diseases,” said Dr McLeod.

None of this vital research is possible without the extraordinary members of the community who participate in clinical trials.

“Young, old, healthy and unwell – wonderful people who understand the importance of clinical trials have committed time, data and samples to assist the scientific community in bringing clinical research to patients,” explained Clinical Trials Advisor Lisa Ferguson.

“We know what we know today, we have the treatments that we have today because many, many, many people took part in clinical trials,” said QIMR Berghofer Professor Patricia Valery.
Clinical trials are held in all four of QIMR Berghofer’s research areas including Infection & Inflammation, Mental Health & Neuroscience, Population Health, and Cancer Research.

**Infection & Inflammation**

- A Phase 1 study to characterise the transmission of an in vitro expanded *Plasmodium falciparum* (malaria) 3D7-MBE008 master cell bank in healthy subjects *(not yet recruiting)*
- A phase 1b study to evaluate the blood stage antimalarial activity of a single oral dose of tafenoquine in healthy subjects experimentally infected with *Plasmodium falciparum*
- A randomised, double blind, placebo controlled trial to evaluate the safety, tolerability and anti-parasitic immunity boosting activity of Ruxolitinib when co-administered with artemether-lumefantrine in healthy volunteers with *Plasmodium falciparum* Induced Blood Stage Malaria
- Phase I open-label clinical trial of allogeneic SARS-CoV-2-specific T cells for patients at risk of severe COVID-19 *(not yet recruiting)*
- Phase I open-label clinical trial of trial of allogeneic multi-virus-specific T cells for the treatment of viral complications in transplant recipients
- Phase I clinical trial of adoptive transfer of multi-virus-specific T cells into TCRαβ+/CD19+-depleted haploidentical HSCT recipients

**Mental Health & Neuroscience**

- Pilot and Feasibility RCT of a cognitive behavioural family intervention for reducing bullying victimisation and mental illness of adolescents
- Dose finding clinical trial of sodium benzoate in people living with treatment refractory schizophrenia
- Restoring the function of brain networks in Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders using non-invasive brain stimulation
- PARTING: Psilocybin-Assisted suppoRtive psychoTherapy IN the treatment of complicated Grief feasibility trial *(not yet recruiting)*

**Cancer Research**

- PROMISE: Patient Reported Outcome Measures in cancer care: a hybrid effectiveness-Implementation trial to optimise Symptom control and health service Experience
- PRoCESS: Pancreatic cancer Relatives Counselling and Education Support Service trial. Assessing the effect of nurse-led counselling, compared with information alone, on participant-reported outcomes and use of medical services

**Population Health**

- The Sun-D Trial: the effect of high SPF sunscreen application on vitamin D
- The D-Health Trial – the largest trial of its kind to study the relationship between vitamin D and respiratory infection
- THYroid Replacement Options for Primary Hypothyroidism: - A Pilot Study
Research to help diagnose pancreatic cancer early

With about 4,200 Australians diagnosed each year with pancreatic cancer, QIMR Berghofer is conducting research to help diagnose pancreatic cancer earlier.

Pancreatic cancer is the eighth most commonly diagnosed cancer in Australia, accounting for approximately three per cent of all new cancer diagnoses.

“Survival is extremely poor, with only 12 per cent of people living for five years after a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. As a consequence pancreatic cancer is the third most common cause of cancer death,” Professor Rachel Neale said.

“The only way to cure pancreatic cancer is to remove the tumour surgically. However, about 80 per cent of people are diagnosed when surgery is not possible because the tumour has spread to nearby blood vessels or to other organs,” she said.

“Pancreatic cancer occurs too rarely to justify screening everybody in the population, like we do for breast or bowel cancer, so most patients are diagnosed after they develop symptoms and go to their doctor.

“Symptoms of pancreatic cancer are very non-specific; that is, they can also be caused by other, generally much less serious, conditions. Because of this, many patients take a long time to receive their diagnosis, and this can be distressing for them and their families,” Professor Neale said.

Professor Neale’s team is driving research to help diagnose pancreatic cancer earlier.

Professor Neale and Dr Bridie Thompson collaborated with doctors from around Australia to develop guidance to help general practitioners (GPs) decide which patients should have their pancreas investigated, based on combinations of symptoms and risk factors.

“Most patients for example who present with abdominal pain will have a condition such as irritable bowel disease or reflux. But if the patient has other issues, such as a history of smoking or a family history of pancreatic cancer, it may be appropriate to order tests of the pancreas,” Dr Thompson said.

The guidance has been published in the journal Pancreatology, and is available on the QIMR Berghofer website.

Researchers are now conducting a study, the Pathways Study, to understand more about patient journeys to diagnosis and the impact of delays in diagnosis. They also aim to determine how many patients would have been diagnosed earlier if the GP had followed the new advice.

Patients who take part in the Pathways Study are given the opportunity to tell their story to our research nurse, helping to reduce delays in diagnosis for future patients.

QIMR Berghofer is also establishing a national dataset, the Panlink dataset, which will be used to identify if there are groups of the population for whom routine screening would be beneficial and cost-effective.

Pharmaceutical company Viatris funded the development of the GP guidance. Viatris and Pankind (The Australian Pancreatic Cancer Foundation) are funding the Pathways and Panlink studies.
Hi, I’m Judi Adams. I am one of the 4,200 plus people diagnosed each year with pancreatic cancer. Possibly the very first symptom was pain in my lower back. I went to my GP and I was just really lucky that my cancer was found early.

I’ve taken part in the Pathways Study to assist with the collective lived experience that researchers can gain from talking to people like myself who’ve had a diagnosis.

It’s only through those lived experiences that researchers can get a snapshot of what it looks like for each individual, the common denominators and warning signs to look out for.

Abdominal pain

Loss of appetite/nausea/unintended weight loss

Jaundice (yellowing of skin and whites of eyes)

New diagnosis of diabetes/existing diabetes that’s becoming more difficult to control

Know your symptoms

Symptoms of pancreatic cancer can be mistaken for other conditions. Below are some of the symptoms, which in combination, should be checked by your physician.

PANCREATIC CANCER PATHWAYS

Discovering the pathways to diagnosis

Patients often experience delays in diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. The Pathways Study aims to understand patients’ journey to diagnosis so we can develop ways to help patients be diagnosed quickly in the future.

If you have been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in the past six months you may be eligible to take part in Pathways.

To find out more visit us online:

https://www.qimrberghofer.edu.au/pathwaysstudy

or email: PathwaysStudy@qimrberghofer.edu.au
New research has found a relationship between people who are genetically predisposed to develop chronic acid reflux and COVID-19.

The research found that genes predicted to cause gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (GORD) were associated with an increased risk of severe COVID-19 and COVID-19 hospitalisation. GORD is a chronic form of acid reflux and one of Australia’s most common stomach and intestine illnesses.

Observational studies report a link between GORD and greater COVID-19 risk, which could be explained by the fact both share risk factors like:

- obesity
- hypertension
- cardiovascular disease
- diabetes

However, QIMR Berghofer researcher Dr Jue-Sheng Ong said the study suggests there could be a more direct causal relationship between acid reflux and COVID-19 experience.

"By analysing large-scale genetic data we found that genes predicted to cause GORD were linked with a 15 per cent increase in the risk of severe COVID-19 and hospitalisation,” Dr Ong said.

“We then used statistical modelling to test whether common risk factors could be driving the link.

Our analysis found obesity explained part of the relationship between acid reflux and COVID-19 risk. It didn’t explain all of it,” he said.

“These findings suggest GORD could play a direct causal role in increasing the risk of severe COVID-19 and COVID-19 hospitalisation,” Dr Ong said.

“It isn’t clear whether the increased risk of severe COVID-19 and hospitalisation relates to GORD itself, or to treatments people take when they’re diagnosed with GORD,” he said.

Further studies are necessary to validate the results, and explore the biological mechanisms linking risk factors like obesity, acid reflux and COVID-19.

The QIMR Berghofer study was published in the journal Human Molecular Genetics. It was led by Professor Stuart MacGregor, head of the Institute’s Statistical Genetics Laboratory.

QSkin, which along with UK Biobank and the COVID-19 Host Genetics Initiative provided genetic data used in the study. The project was funded by grants from the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia.
Inspiring the scientists of the future

For the eighth year running, a team of dedicated scientists and researchers is taking ground-breaking work to schools around Queensland, engaging with and inspiring the scientists of the future.

The Regional High School Lecture series began in 2014 and now reaches as many as 1600 students each year in remote towns and regional centres from Thursday Island to Roma.

Joining a recent trip to Gladstone and Tannum Sands, Associate Professor David Frazer gave students insights into the major role that iron plays in our health.

“It is such an incredible experience to leave the lab and meet the young people who are the future scientists and supporters of medical research in Queensland. They are so bright and so interested in what we’re doing and they ask the most insightful questions,” Associate Professor Frazer said.

The seminars aim to encourage participation in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Maths) subjects, and to inspire students to consider a career in health science.

The program is the brainchild of the Manager of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Greg Pratt.

“At QIMR Berghofer we are passionate about promoting science, tertiary education, and health science careers to the next generation - both Indigenous and non-Indigenous alike,” Greg said.

“Regional and remote areas of Queensland have a higher proportion of Indigenous peoples. By visiting these locations we are able to reach a higher number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. The program is engaging and the students gain a real understanding of how medical research makes a big difference to people’s lives,” he said.

The team is inspiring the scientists of the future, around the state, recently visiting Gladstone State High School and Tannum Sands State High School in Central Queensland.

Students also heard from Greg Pratt about the latest work being done by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health program. PhD student Luzia Bukali spoke about her research in immunology and malaria, and Gangi Samarawickrama discussed her role in identifying novel treatments for scabies.

The Regional High School Lecture series will be held in Toowoomba and Roma in July. Students in Cairns and Thursday Island will get the opportunity to meet QIMR Berghofer scientists in August. The final stop of the tour is Townsville in October.
Tell us about what you do at QIMR Berghofer.

I’m the Clinical Operations Manager for the Clinical Malaria Group. For clinical trials I act as a project manager. For us, the clinical trial is usually evaluating a new anti-malarial drug in healthy volunteers that we’ve infected with malaria to see if that new drug cures people of malaria.

What inspired you to choose medical research as your career?

I hope to play a role in the eradication of malaria. Malaria is still one of the biggest killers in the world and most of the time that’s children under five. In my mind, it’s just unacceptable that we allow half a million children to die every year from malaria. The work that we produce here is having a really big impact.

What is one of the most exciting projects you are working on right now?

The most exciting is a project investigating a drug to boost our immune system to fight malaria. What is unique about what we have here at QIMR Berghofer is that we have a really well characterised, defined induced blood stage malaria model. Nowhere else in the world has such a well-defined model.

It’s essential that these trials are conducted here in a controlled manner so we get controlled data from people who haven’t had malaria before, and then we can translate it to the field. Our trials are critical. They’re essential to ensure that we meet the goal of eradicating malaria by 2030 when it is such a preventable disease and such a curable disease.

What could be achieved in your field of research with additional funding support and time?

We could run more clinical trials to evaluate more antimalarial drugs and to further understand our immune system’s response to malaria infection.

What is one of your big predictions for your field in the next 10 years?

That there will be drugs available to boost our immune system to help malaria vaccines work better and to help with the antimalarial drugs given to prevent malaria infection.

Scan and watch the video for further information about the Malaria Immunity Trial:
https://bit.ly/Malaria_Immunity_Trial
Governor presents official Patronage Certificate to QIMR Berghofer

The Queensland Governor, Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young PSM is now officially the patron of QIMR Berghofer after formally presenting the Patronage Certificate on 13 April, 2022.

The Institute is familiar ground for Her Excellency who served on the iconic research organisation’s Council from 2005 to 2019.

Council Chair Professor Arun Sharma and Director and CEO Professor Fabienne Mackay took Her Excellency on a tour of the Institute. Dr Young was briefed on the latest research being led by Professor Greg Devine into mosquito-borne diseases.

Thanking the Governor for her role as patron, Professor Sharma said no one better understood the value and importance of medical research, such as that being undertaken at QIMR Berghofer.

“COVID-19 has shown us that we are at an inflection point in history where medical research has never been more vital. Our researchers at QIMR Berghofer have shown that we are prepared and ready to respond to historic pandemics such as COVID-19 with world-leading, meaningful research that is making a difference to everyday people,” Professor Sharma said.

QIMR Berghofer Director and CEO Professor Fabienne Mackay said it was a tremendous privilege to have the support of the Governor of Queensland.

“Her Excellency has been a genuine and committed supporter of QIMR Berghofer for many years, we look forward to continuing this long-standing relationship.”

The presentation at QIMR Berghofer was an opportunity for Her Excellency to meet staff who work in diverse areas of the Institute and are in different stages of their career, including research award winners, long-serving employees and a PhD candidate.
The fight against COVID-19, cancer and other diseases has been boosted with four of the Institute’s scientists being awarded a prestigious national REDI Fellowship. Each scientist will receive up to $250,000 towards partnering with industry and turning ground-breaking research into reality.

“Industry partnerships are so important to be able to take our discoveries from bench to bedside. The Fellowship will help accelerate the Institute’s research to deliver the best outcomes for patients,” said QIMR Berghofer’s Director and CEO Professor Fabienne Mackay.

Professor Sudha Rao will be working with artificial intelligence (AI) business, Max Kelsen. She will develop a blood test using AI to predict a person’s risk of becoming seriously ill with COVID-19.

“The goal is to show how much protection an individual has against COVID-19. Those most at risk can then be quickly identified and offered targeted treatment options,” Professor Rao said.

“This is a fantastic opportunity to improve the outcomes for people with COVID-19,” she said.

Max Kelsen’s Head of Research, Dr Maciej Trzaskowski, said the collaboration with Professor Rao promises to shed light on the relationship between invader viruses and their human hosts in unprecedented ways.

“This is a pioneering example of how industry and academia can collaborate using AI to solve complex biological problems in a timeframe which would be impossible without AI,” Dr Trzaskowski said.
Cancer Immunotherapy

Associate Professor Michelle Hill will spend 12 months with precision microbiome company, Microba Life Sciences, working on:

- The discovery and development of therapies to improve cancer immunotherapy outcomes
- Advancing Microba’s treatment program for inflammatory bowel disease by the development of clinical biomarkers

“This Fellowship will fast track this program for improving cancer patient outcomes,” Associate Professor Hill said.

Microba Life Sciences Chief Scientific Officer Associate Professor Lutz Krause said, “We’re thrilled to have Associate Professor Michelle Hill join us with her expertise in biomarker discovery to advance Microba’s impact on improving patient outcomes in chronic diseases.”

Drug development

Associate Professor Jason Lee will join a team of investment managers at IP Group Australia.

“I hope to increase my commercialisation knowledge and in turn provide scientific expertise to investment managers, bringing together science and industry to expedite the development of novel drugs,” Associate Professor Lee said.

Dr Siro Perez, Head of Life Sciences at IP Group Australia, says they are delighted to welcome Jason as a fellow under the REDI Fellowship Program.

“Jason’s extensive expertise within the field of cancer epigenetics and transcriptional regulation will make a valuable contribution in creating and supporting university spinout companies. We would like to thank the MTPConnect and the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) for funding and facilitating this important program.”

Blood cancer treatment

Associate Professor Kate Gartlan will work with global biotech leader, CSL, to develop new treatments to improve outcomes for blood cancer patients who require stem cell transplants.

“Blood cancer patients who undergo stem cell transplantation often suffer very serious complications. This partnership with CSL will develop our research findings into targeted therapies to reduce the risks associated with the procedure,” Associate Professor Gartlan said.
Raising funds for pancreatic cancer research

QIMR Berghofer staff joined the pancreatic cancer community at the 2022 Pankind Put Your Foot Down Walk at New Farm Park in May to raise funds for pancreatic cancer research. Professor Rachel Neale and Dr Bridie Thompson from the Pancreatic Cancer Pathways study joined walkers again this year.

The Pathways Study aims to understand patients’ journey to diagnosis so we can develop ways to help patients be diagnosed quickly in the future.

Research to improve early detection of pancreatic cancer at QIMR Berghofer is generously supported by funding from PanKind, the Australian Pancreatic Cancer Foundation and Viatris.

Brisbane Hash House Harriettes High Tea Fundraiser

On Saturday 28 May the Brisbane Hash House Harriettes held a High Tea fundraiser supporting ovarian cancer research at QIMR Berghofer.

The Club members, with Professor Penny Webb as their special guest, enjoyed a delicious high tea at Pepper N Salt Cafe, Keperra and raised funds through ticket sales, raffles and an auction of items donated by some of the Harriettes. The event was a great success raising $3,400 for Professor Webb’s research.

“It was fun to meet the Brisbane Hash House Harriettes at their High Tea and I am enormously grateful for their generosity in supporting our research into improving outcomes for women diagnosed with ovarian cancer,” Professor Webb said.

The Brisbane Hash House Harriettes is a social co-operative, running club who meet weekly to stay fit, have fun and grab a bite after.
Join us at the World Science Festival in Ipswich and Toowoomba

Be inspired by the remarkable role of medical research when you visit the QIMR Berghofer activity stall at the World Science Festival.

Be fascinated; looking at cells, bacteria and viruses under QIMR Berghofer’s powerful microscope. Learn how medical researchers study illness in the human body, working on prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

Meet Chris Batho

The joy of a research lab is that every day is different! On some days, the stem cells need to be fed. On other days, the heart cells need to be fed or treated with a drug to see if that affects its function. When I am not feeding cells, I may be extracting protein or RNA from the heart cells, staining them with antibodies to visualize them under the microscope, or working with bacteria so I can clone a gene or add a fluorescent tag. I am now doing my PhD in the Heart Biology Lab at QIMR Berghofer.

See some of our emerging scientists speak this year at the World Science Festival’s Cool Jobs in STEM! in Ipswich and Toowoomba!

Find out more at: www.worldsciencefestival.com.au
Join Team QIMR Berghofer on 28 August for the Bridge to Brisbane to help continue our life-saving medical research.

10 VIP spots
The first 10 people who commit to raising $500 will secure one of our VIP spaces with FREE entry.

Free T-shirt
Raise $50 and you will receive a complimentary QIMR Berghofer t-shirt you can proudly wear during your training and on the day.

Free water bottle
Raise $250 and receive a complimentary QIMR Berghofer stainless steel drink bottle.

Prizes
Prizes for the highest individual fundraiser and best dressed on the day!

How to join:
1. Head to the Bridge to Brisbane website and select JOIN A TEAM
2. Enter your details and choose the distance you would like to run.
3. Enter QIMR Berghofer as the team you would like to join.
4. Choose QIMR Berghofer as your chosen charity to fundraise for.
5. Once registration is complete you will receive an automatic email with a link to your fundraising page.

Any questions or to reserve one of our 10 VIP spots email: supportus@qimrberghofer.edu.au