

2025 - 2026 ANNUAL REPORT

WESLEY
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Feedback is important for improving the value of our future annual reports.

We welcome your comments which can be made by contacting us at:

enquiries@wesleyresearch.org.au

www.wesleyresearch.org.au

07 3721 1500

PO Box 499, Toowong DC QLD 4066

ABN 85 066 149 666

OFFICIAL RESEARCH PARTNER OF UNITINGCARE

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Turrbal and Yuggera peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which Wesley Research Institute now stands. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.



Contents

02 About Wesley Research Institute

06 Our Patron-in-Chief, the Governor of Queensland

08 Message from CEO and Board Chair

10 2025-2026 Highlights

12 In the News

14 Queensland Spatial Biology Centre

20 Coeliac Disease and Immune Health Research

22 Clinical Trials Centre

26 Wesley Research Institute Biobank

28 Clinical Grant Rounds

30 Advantage Partnership

32 Isaac Navicare

34 Future Focus

38 People and Culture

39 Our Board

40 Financial Summary

42 Our Giving Community



About Wesley Research Institute

Founded in 1994, Wesley Research Institute is an independent, not-for-profit medical research institute, embedded within one of Australia's most extensive private healthcare systems. We are committed to turning discovery into better care.

An Innovation-Led Research Institute

Everything we do flows from a single identity. We prove research leadership through flagship programs such as the Queensland Spatial Biology Centre, and we nurture high-potential programs including coeliac disease and immune health.

Behind both sit the foundations that make research possible. Our clinical trials centre and our biobank give researchers the time, the tools and the access they need to succeed.

Where We Work

As UnitingCare's official research partner, we are embedded across The Wesley Hospital, St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital, Buderim Private Hospital and St Stephen's Hospital.

For patients, that means earlier access to new trials, devices and techniques, leading to new and improved treatments, and to less time, cost and burden along their health journey.

Our Future Direction

This year we set the direction for the next three years. Strategy 2026–2029: Transforming Lives Through Research was shaped by our Board and Executive Leadership Team, by staff across the Institute, by the university and hospital partners who make our research possible, by donors who back us with their trust, vision and partnership, by our valued researchers, and our patients and consumers, who we remain committed to in delivering impact. It is built on a simple belief: meaningful research impact is never achieved alone.

Our Purpose

Delivering research that leads to innovative treatments, and enhanced outcomes for patients, communities and the health system.

Our Vision

Transforming lives through the power of research.

Our Mission

Excellence and innovation in health and medical research.



Our Values

Our values underpin how we engage, collaborate, and deliver our work.

Accountable

We own our actions, honour our commitments, and face issues openly and honestly.

Respectful

Treating people fairly and equitably, listening actively and acting with honesty, courtesy and consideration.

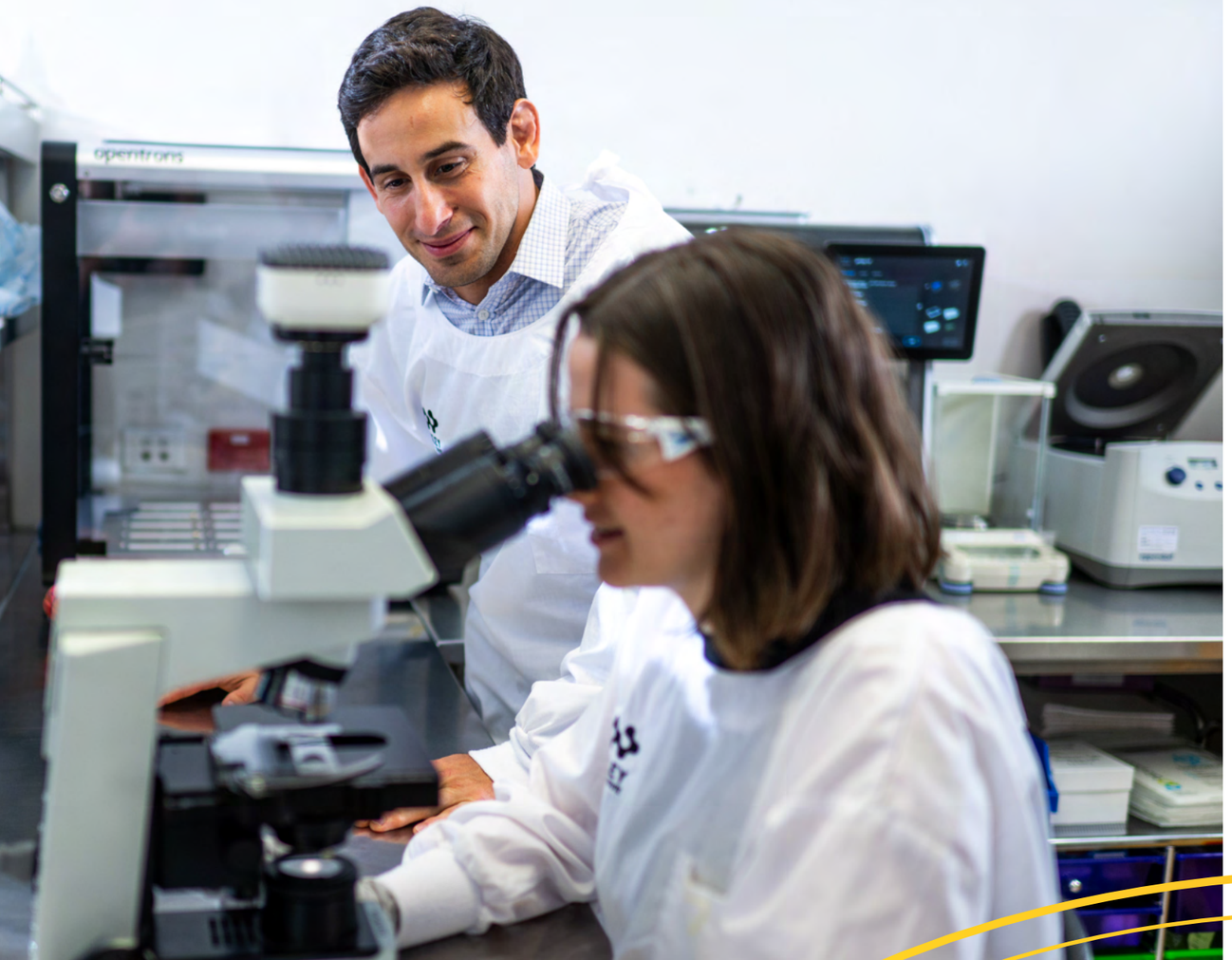


Collaborative

Working together towards shared goals through open communication, idea-sharing, and mutual support.

Impact Driven

Our individual contributions help advance better outcomes for patients, while honouring the trust placed in us to do it well.



Who We Create Impact For

We exist to move breakthroughs from the laboratory through to the community, translating research into care that improves the lives of patients and the wider health system. Our strategy sets out how that work creates change for four groups.

Researchers & translational research

Protected time and space for our researchers, combined with stronger services to focus on discovery, enabling the path from idea to translation.

Institutional partners

Co-investment and collaboration that grows research capacity, scale and pace using cutting-edge infrastructure, networks and growing Queensland's research expertise and workforce capability.

Patients & consumers

Earlier access to new trials, devices and techniques for Australian patients, leading to new and improved treatments, resulting in less time, cost and burden along their health journey.

Health system & society

Reducing disease burden, lower treatment costs and faster recovery for patients leading to a more efficient, sustainable health system and stronger communities.

Our Patron-in-Chief, the Governor of Queensland

Message from the Governor of Queensland

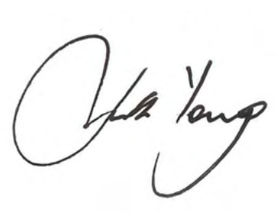
As Governor of Queensland and Patron-in-Chief of Wesley Research Institute, I am pleased to recognise the Institute's continued contribution to health and medical research. Its researchers, clinicians and staff have again applied scientific rigour and clinical insight to challenges affecting patients across Queensland and around the world, further strengthening the Institute's reputation as one of the state's leading centres for applied medical research.

Within the Queensland Spatial Biology Centre, Associate Professor Arutha Kulasinghe was appointed this year to the Brazil Family Chair in Spatial Medicine. Created in partnership with The University of Queensland, this world-first research leadership role is philanthropically funded. The Centre's research has also expanded through a new cardiovascular program led by Associate Professor Eliot Peyster. The program applies unique human tissue models, advanced spatial biology analyses, and computational and artificial intelligence tools to conditions including heart failure, coronary artery disease, autoimmune and inflammatory cardiomyopathies, and heart transplantation.

The Institute's Gluten Threshold study, led by Dr James Daveson, has shown extremely small amounts of gluten trigger measurable immune activation in people with treated coeliac disease, a finding with the potential to inform international food labelling standards. Its Clinical Trials Centre has also expanded its reach this year, managing 39 clinical trials involving more than 100 participants and contributing to new treatment options for conditions including neurological disorders, coeliac disease, cardiovascular disease, cancer and rare diseases.

A new ADVANTAGE Partnership between Griffith Health and Wesley Research Institute has strengthened clinical research and academic collaboration across medical, nursing and allied health disciplines within UnitingCare hospitals this year. Open to research-curious clinicians, the partnership will help the next generation of healthcare professionals turn clinical questions into research findings with direct benefit for patients.

As a former medical professional, I recognise the scale of effort behind achievements such as these. I particularly value the collaboration among doctors, nurses, scientists and allied health professionals that underpins the Institute's work. None of this would be possible without the ongoing generosity of donors, partners and advocates, whose support continues to advance research, improve lives and offer hope to patients across Queensland and beyond. I congratulate everyone associated with Wesley Research Institute on the achievements of the past year and look forward to following its continued progress.



Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM
Governor of Queensland



Message from CEO and Board Chair

FY2025-26 was a year of achievement and preparation for the future.

Over the past three decades, Wesley Research Institute (WRI) has built a strong reputation for delivering high-quality translational research that improves healthcare and changes lives. Throughout the past year, our researchers, clinicians and professional staff remained focused on addressing some of the most significant health challenges facing our community. Their work has strengthened understanding of disease, improved access to innovative clinical trials, supported treatment approaches, and helped create pathways for research findings to be translated into real-world patient outcomes. As the official research partner of UnitingCare, we are uniquely positioned to bridge research and healthcare delivery, ensuring that innovation remains closely connected to patient needs. 23 research projects aligned with UnitingCare hospitals and clinicians were supported during the year.

This year also highlighted the growing impact of our leadership in spatial medicine through the Queensland Spatial Biology Centre (QSBC). By combining advanced spatial technologies with clinical research, our teams have generated internationally recognised discoveries across cancer, infectious disease and cardiovascular disease. These achievements, published in leading journals including Nature Genetics, Nature Communications and the European Heart Journal, are helping reveal how disease develops and responds to treatment at an unprecedented level of detail, creating new opportunities for earlier diagnosis, more precise therapies and better patient outcomes. Reflecting both the growing global significance of this work, and WRI's increasing strategic focus on spatial biology research, Associate Professor Arutha Kulasinghe was appointed as the world's first Chair in Spatial Medicine, thanks to a philanthropic gift by the Brazil Family, a significant contribution for the emerging field of spatial medicine.

Our Coeliac Disease and Immune Health Program also reached an important milestone with publication of the landmark Gluten Threshold Study, which demonstrated that even very small amounts of gluten can trigger measurable immune responses in people with coeliac disease. By helping define a threshold likely to protect the vast majority of patients, the findings have the potential to inform international gluten-free food labelling standards while reinforcing Australia's leadership in evidence-based regulation.

The clinical trials centre (CTC) reached an inflection point entering a new phase of maturity over the past year, with the quality, volume and diversity of trials being conducted, consolidating the CTC as an important infrastructure of our institute. The Biobank team also continued to demonstrate the ongoing value of this facility to the overall value proposition of WRI.



CEO Andrew Barron (left) and Board Chair Charlie Sartain

This year we also formalised an agreement with Griffith Health, the ADVANTAGE Partnership (ADVANced research iniTiAtive in medical, nursinG and alliEd health), establishing a strategic collaboration to strengthen research capability across the UnitingCare Hospitals in Queensland. The partnership has two complementary goals: providing immediate research support to clinicians across Wesley Research Institute and the UnitingCare hospitals, while in the long-term building out a sustainable foundation of clinician-researchers interested or enrolled into Higher Degree Research pathways, including Masters or PhD programs.

Importantly, this year has also provided an opportunity to look ahead.

Healthcare systems around the world are experiencing unprecedented change. Chronic disease continues to place growing pressure on patients, families and health services, while advances in precision medicine, digital technologies and data-driven discovery are creating extraordinary opportunities to improve health outcomes. Against this backdrop, WRI has undertaken a deliberate and thoughtful process to define our strategic direction for the years ahead.

The result is our new Strategy 2026-2029, Transforming Lives Through Research, which will guide the next phase of our evolution as an innovation-led medical research institute. Developed through extensive engagement with our staff, researchers, Board, partners, supporters and community, the strategy reflects both our ambitions and our responsibility to create meaningful impact through research.

The strategy recognises that meaningful research impact is never achieved alone. Success depends on strong partnerships across researchers, clinicians, universities, industry, donors, patients and the broader community. It also reflects our belief that research should ultimately be judged not simply by activity, but by the difference it makes to people's lives and the health system that serves them. The strategy also encompasses more structured, long term fundraising strategies designed to support the increasing financial demands of our growing research activities. One of the most enduring ways to sustain that work is through our new gift in Wills program, called the Barnard Society.

A key part of this future may be our intended expansion into the Wesley Comprehensive Cancer Centre (opening in 2028), creating new opportunities to integrate research more deeply within patient care and further strengthen our leadership in spatial medicine. Designed around the principle that research and clinical care should work hand in hand, the Centre will bring together precision medicine, a digital biobank, clinical trials, advanced diagnostics and clinician-scientist programs to accelerate the translation of discovery into improved outcomes for patients.

Thank you

None of our achievements this year would have been possible without the dedication and commitment of our people. We thank our researchers, clinicians, staff and Board Directors for their expertise, passion and leadership. We are equally grateful to our donors, supporters, collaborators and funding partners whose confidence in our work enables research that might otherwise not occur. Most importantly, we acknowledge the patients and families who participate in research and place their trust in us. They remain the reason we do what we do.

As we close FY 2026, we do so with optimism and purpose. We share pride in the foundations that have been built over more than 30 years, confident in the opportunities ahead, and excited about the next chapter of WRI's journey.

We will continue transforming lives through the power of research.

Andrew Barron
Chief Executive Officer

Charlie Sartain
Board Chair

2025-2026 Highlights

A year measured in cells mapped, patients seen, samples stored and questions answered.

QUEENSLAND SPATIAL BIOLOGY CENTRE (QSBC)

QSBC
QUEENSLAND SPATIAL BIOLOGY CENTRE

Millions
of individual cells mapped in their tissue environment

>50TB
of spatial imaging data generated

World's first
Chair in Spatial Medicine

WRI BIOBANK

>40,000 samples in long-term storage

14
clinical trials provided biosample support

18
participants' samples processed and stored for EMERGE Australia

13
placentas collected for regenerative medicine research

COELIAC DISEASE AND IMMUNE HEALTH

>3,500 members of the Coeliac Research Network

CLINICAL GRANT ROUNDS

23 grant projects in progress

ADVANTAGE PARTNERSHIP

19
projects

12
clinical trials

4
grassroots investigator-initiated studies in early discussion

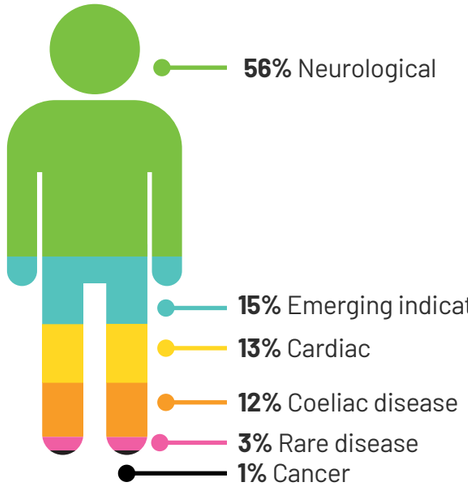
CLINICAL TRIALS CENTRE

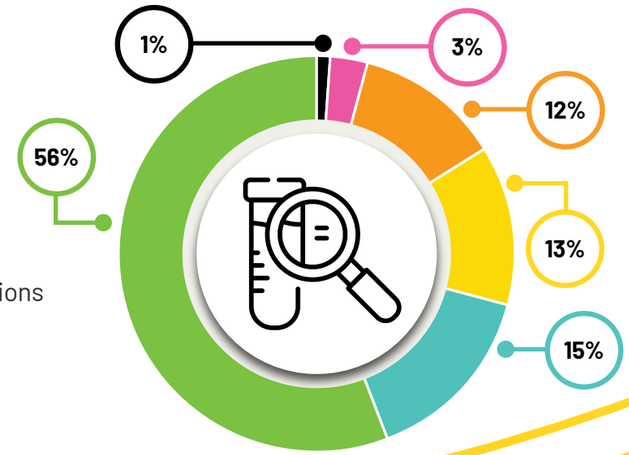
39
studies

571
visits to Wesley Research Institute

104
patients

WHERE OUR CLINICAL TRIALS ARE FOCUSED





In the News

Over the past year, our discoveries and the people behind them reached audiences well beyond the laboratory.

A New Fight Against Deadly Lung Syndrome

A project funded through our grant rounds drew national media coverage this year.

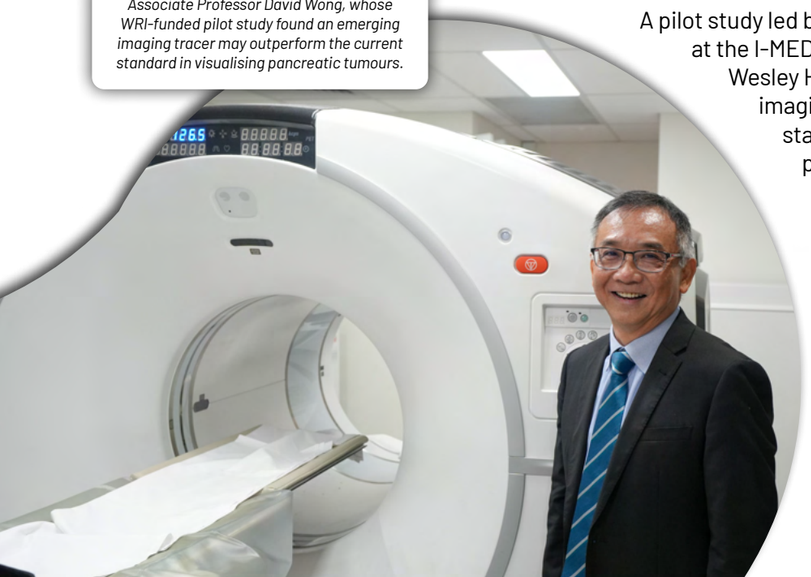


Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) is a sudden, severe failure of the lungs. It can follow infection, injury or surgery, affects millions of people globally each year, and after 50 years still has no specific cure, only supportive care in intensive care.

Associate Professor Jeremy Cohen's project was funded through our grant rounds to investigate whether inflammatory fluid produced by injured lungs is linked to the development of ARDS. It is now a world-first human pilot study.

Working with Associate Professor Gianluigi Li Bassi and visiting research fellows, the team at The Wesley Hospital and the Critical Care Research Group is investigating Biofluid-Induced Lung Injury, in which inflammatory fluid spreads through the lungs like dye through a sponge, damaging tissue as it goes. Using minimally invasive sampling, flow cytometry and proteomics, the study aims to validate the mechanism and find ways to contain it, through patient positioning, ventilation strategy and potential drug targets.

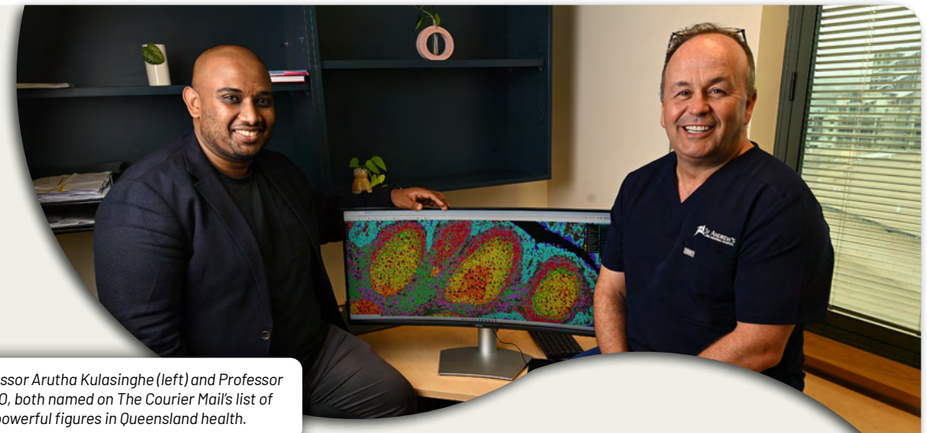
A Sharper Picture of Pancreatic Cancer



Associate Professor David Wong, whose WRI-funded pilot study found an emerging imaging tracer may outperform the current standard in visualising pancreatic tumours.

A pilot study led by Associate Professor David Wong at the I-MED Radiology Network within The Wesley Hospital has found that an emerging imaging tracer may outperform the current standard tracer, 18F-FDG, in visualising pancreatic tumours and their spread.

Published in the Journal of Medical Imaging and Radiation Oncology, the findings suggest 68Ga-FAPI could help clinicians better determine which patients are likely to benefit from surgery, and which would be better served by other treatments. The work was covered in The Courier Mail.



Associate Professor Arutha Kulasinghe (left) and Professor John Fraser AO, both named on The Courier Mail's list of the most powerful figures in Queensland health.

Ranked Among the People Who Run Health in Queensland

Researchers Professor John Fraser AO and Associate Professor Arutha Kulasinghe were named on The Courier Mail's list of the most powerful health figures in Queensland.

Professor John Fraser AO was placed 4th, described by the paper as "the critical care visionary saving lives on a global scale". Professor Fraser has been recognised for his health leadership and clinical direction of the Queensland Spatial Biology Centre, and his contribution to revolutionising critical care, including the Living Heart Project at the Critical Care Research Group and his work as an intensivist at Brisbane-based hospitals.

Associate Professor Arutha Kulasinghe was placed 21st, as "the spatial biology rock star mapping cancer like never before". The listing recognised his 2025 NHMRC Science to Art Award, for tumour maps so striking they were printed onto XBOX consoles, and his appointment as the world's first Chair in Spatial Medicine, alongside work that is reshaping how lung and skin cancers are understood.

This recognition highlights the growing importance of funding spatial biology as the next frontier of precision medicine. It also reinforces the power of collaboration in translating research into better patient care.

> "Brisbane is taking the lead. Backing this work is essential. Wesley Research Institute delivers world-class innovation in critical care. It merits strong support."
>
> *- Professor John Fraser AO*

Keep up with the latest news, events, clinical trials and research projects at WRI by scanning QR code or signing up at ***wesleyresearch.org.au/news-events***



Queensland Spatial Biology Centre

QSBC

Queensland Spatial Biology Centre

In collaboration with

The University Of Queensland
AUSTRALIA

Every patient's disease is different. Spatial biology shows us exactly how, by mapping the way cells live side by side in the tissue where the disease actually lives.

Despite advances in chemotherapy, radiotherapy, surgery and immunotherapy, treatment options for many patients with deadly diseases have improved little in more than a decade. Spatial biology is changing that. By keeping tissue architecture intact and mapping where cells sit and how they interact with neighbouring cells, our researchers can uncover what determines whether a treatment will work.

Executive Director Professor John Fraser AO and Founding Scientific Director Associate Professor Arutha Kulasinghe are leading a growing team of wet-lab and computational scientists, clinicians and data analysts. This year their work extended across oncology, cardiovascular disease and infectious disease.

ACTIVE AREAS OF RESEARCH

- Lung cancer
- Head and neck cancer
- Breast and ovarian cancer
- Cardiovascular disease
- Infectious disease

Transforming Cardiovascular Care

Major advances have been made in predicting cardiovascular risk across populations. Translating the biology of an individual human heart into personalised diagnosis has remained out of reach. A new cardiovascular research program at the QSBC, led by Dr Eliot Peyster, is built to close that gap. Joining the institute this year from the University of Pennsylvania, Dr Peyster is a clinician-scientist in heart failure and cardiac inflammation.

At its core, the program represents a shift toward human-centric, tissue-resolved precision medicine in cardiovascular disease, with the goal of moving beyond one-size-fits-all treatment pathways. By integrating molecular, cellular, spatial, and clinical data, the program seeks to understand why patients with similar diagnoses experience dramatically different disease trajectories and treatment responses.

With research projects spanning heart failure, coronary artery disease, autoimmune and inflammatory cardiomyopathies, heart transplantation, and novel platforms for testing next-generation drugs and devices, Dr Peyster's work aims to shorten the path from discovery to patient impact.

It applies spatial multi-omics, computational analysis and artificial intelligence to human heart tissue, to answer a question that has frustrated cardiology for years: why do patients with the same diagnosis respond so differently to the same treatment?

The Year in Numbers

- **Millions** of individual cells mapped in their tissue environment
- **>20 invited presentations** across Queensland, nationally and internationally
- **7 peer-reviewed research publications**, alongside further methods papers and textbook contributions

A Cardiovascular Collaboration

The cardiovascular research program brings together WRI, the Critical Care Research Group and The University of Queensland's Institute for Molecular Bioscience.

Breakthroughs in cardiovascular care don't happen in isolation. They rely on strong partnerships between clinicians, researchers and patients.

With cardiovascular disease one of the leading causes of death in Australia, this collaboration is strengthening pathways for clinicians and researchers to work together to translate science into improved patient outcomes.

"By revealing disease activity beyond the areas of cardiac injury we traditionally look for, we can begin to develop more sensitive diagnostic tools and improve outcomes for patients who currently face prolonged uncertainty and risk."

- Dr Eliot Peyster, Head of Cardiovascular Research, Queensland Spatial Biology Centre



Dr Eliot Peyster, Head of Cardiovascular Research, Queensland Spatial Biology Centre



World's First Chair in Spatial Medicine

In March 2026, Associate Professor Arutha Kulasinghe was appointed as the Brazil Family Chair in Spatial Medicine, the first position of its kind anywhere in the world and a signal that Queensland intends to lead this field rather than follow it.

Funded by the Brazil Family Foundation and held at Wesley Research Institute with The University of Queensland, the Chair backs a discipline moving quickly from experimental research towards clinical use.

Associate Professor Kulasinghe has published more than 100 peer-reviewed articles, was Cure Cancer Australia's Researcher of the Year in 2023 and was awarded Research Australia's 2026 Frontiers Award. He collaborates with Yale Medical School and Stanford Medicine, and in the role will mentor a team of more than 30 surgeons, oncologists, computational scientists and early-career researchers.

"We believe in supporting exceptional people and ideas that have the potential to change how disease is understood and treated," said Professor Victoria Brazil, for the Brazil Family. "Our hope is that this investment helps accelerate discovery and strengthens Australia's leadership in this important field."

"To our community, the patients who have consented to participate in our research, the donors and funding bodies who have invested in our mission, and the broader public whose support makes centres like ours possible, we offer our most sincere gratitude. You are not peripheral to what we do. You are the reason we do it."

- Professor John Fraser AO and Associate Professor Arutha Kulasinghe, QSBC Directors

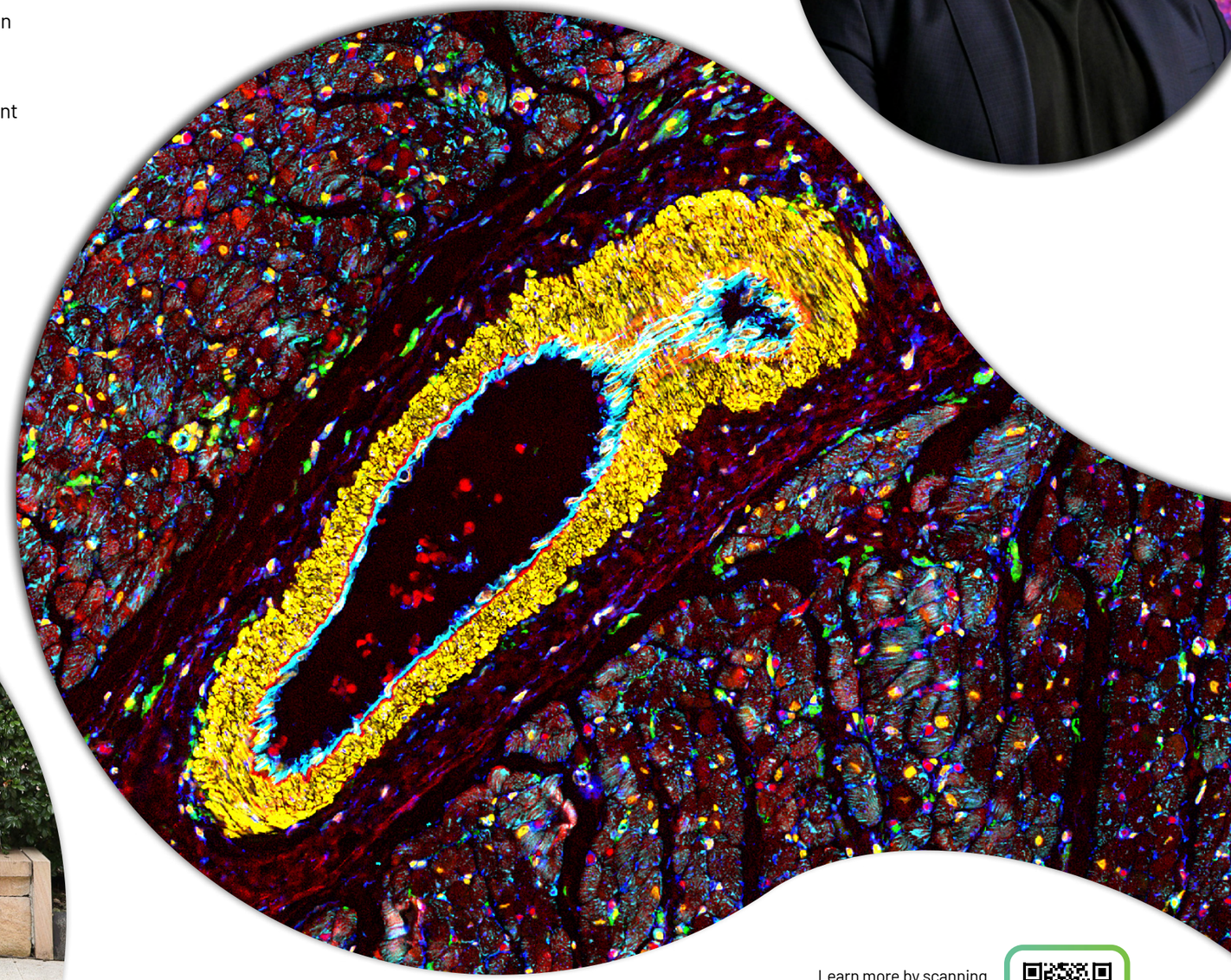


Associate Professor Arutha Kulasinghe (third from the left) with from right: Sherman Leung, Andrew Barron, Professor Victoria Brazil, Professor John Fraser AO and David Sloan

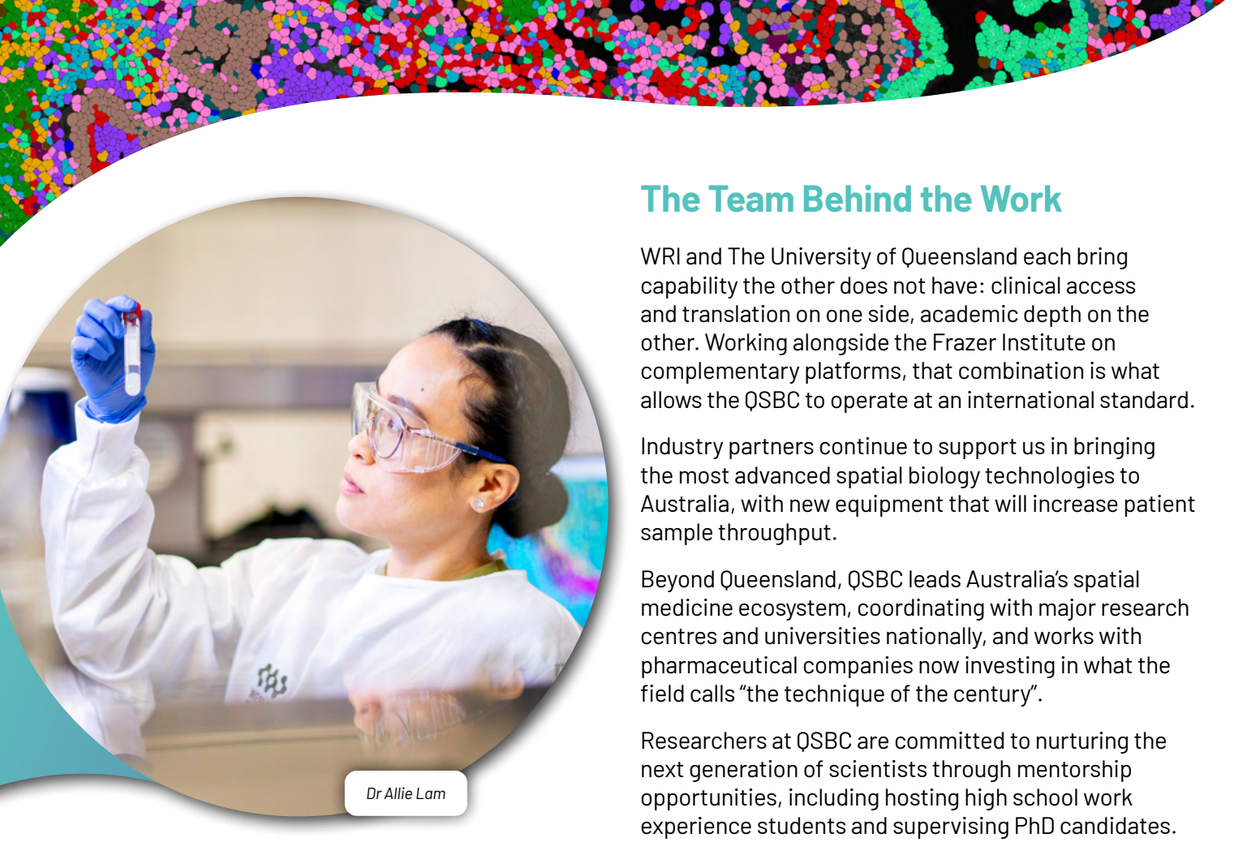
"The establishment of this position is truly a massive leap forward in the precision medicine revolution, where mapping tissues in their native environment will transform how we diagnose, predict and treat disease."

- Associate Professor Arutha Kulasinghe, Brazil Family Chair in Spatial Medicine





Learn more by scanning the QR code or visiting: ***wesleyresearch.org.au/queensland-spatial-biology-centre***



The Team Behind the Work

Dr Allie Lam

WRI and The University of Queensland each bring capability the other does not have: clinical access and translation on one side, academic depth on the other. Working alongside the Frazer Institute on complementary platforms, that combination is what allows the QSBC to operate at an international standard.

Industry partners continue to support us in bringing the most advanced spatial biology technologies to Australia, with new equipment that will increase patient sample throughput.

Beyond Queensland, QSBC leads Australia's spatial medicine ecosystem, coordinating with major research centres and universities nationally, and works with pharmaceutical companies now investing in what the field calls "the technique of the century".

Researchers at QSBC are committed to nurturing the next generation of scientists through mentorship opportunities, including hosting high school work experience students and supervising PhD candidates.

This year we welcomed two research assistants to the team. Dr Allie Lam is an immunologist who completed her PhD at The University of Queensland, where she studied ways to boost the immune system's ability to fight cancer. She now studies tissue samples to map the different types of cells they contain and to identify markers that can help diagnose disease or predict how it will progress. David Cullen, a cell biologist, brings expertise in cancer biology and cell cycle regulation, now applied to the tumour microenvironment. We are looking forward to expanding the team to grow our cardiac spatial studies and mentor the next generation of researchers.

At the heart of it

- Research support for clinicians, including postdoctoral and PhD pathways
- Dedicated research focused on cardiovascular care aligned to clinical priorities
- Stronger links between clinicians and world-leading scientists
- Better pathways for funding, clinical trials and research translation

We're creating stronger opportunities to turn clinical questions into real-world solutions and accelerate the path from discovery to care.

Advocate Story: Merran's Fight Against Ovarian Cancer

Merran was 53 when a hysterectomy for menopausal bleeding turned into something far more serious. Diagnosed with stage 3B high-grade serous ovarian cancer in 2008, a cancer that gives few warnings and is diagnosed in 313,000 women worldwide every year.

"I was lucky to find mine because you don't think about tummy swelling or aches," she says. "Be very in tune with your body and service it like you would a car."

Six cycles of chemotherapy and two recurrences later, Merran is 71 and a 17-year survivor.

"I'm on a magic drug called olaparib, which targets my BRCA gene. "

"A lot of the women in my support group aren't here anymore. I had a photo done a few Christmases ago with five of us, and I'm the only one left."

> *"My life has never been so interesting. I love working with scientists; their eyes twinkle and they just love what they do."*
>
> *- Merran*

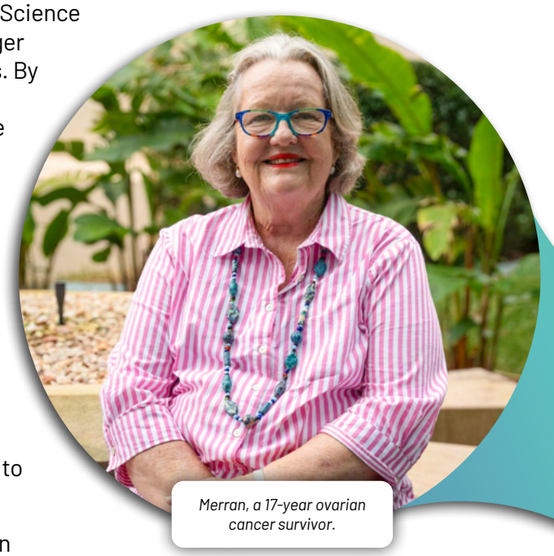
A registered nurse whose career was spent at The Wesley Hospital, founder of the HealthWise centre and a 2010 Churchill Fellow, Merran has turned survival into contribution. Merran closely follows the work of the QSBC and was excited to hear about the work published in iScience which mapped 51 patient samples and found patients lived longer when tumour cells were surrounded by particular immune cells. By mapping the tumour microenvironment and identifying fighter immune cells (CD66+ and CD8 T-cells), the research offers hope for targeted therapies that spare healthy cells.

The contrast with her own treatment is not lost on her.

"With chemo, it's a scattergun approach. It damages all your cells, your whole body. This research is precise, honing in on the cancer cells in the microenvironment. Having endured chemotherapy's gruelling side effects – hair loss, damage, and flu-like symptoms – Merran sees this as a game-changer.

"I want to make sure the treatments are better for my family and others. My family is full of this BRCA gene, and I want them to have better options than I had."

Lived experience matters and passionate advocates like Merran remind us every day that our work is not just about the science or the data, it's about the people.



Merran, a 17-year ovarian cancer survivor.



Understand more about the study

Scan the QR code or watch here:
youtu.be/f-QY6rzfPEk

Coeliac Disease and Immune Health Research

A strict gluten-free diet is the only recognised treatment for coeliac disease. Until this year, nobody could say with certainty how strict "strict" needed to be.

Approximately 1 in 70 Australians are affected by coeliac disease, and more than 80 per cent remain undiagnosed. For those living with coeliac disease, eating gluten can trigger symptoms, fatigue and unintended weight loss, and inflames the small intestine in ways that interfere with nutrient absorption. Left untreated, it can lead to malnutrition, osteoporosis, infertility and an increased risk of certain cancers.

The nationally recognised research program, driven by Dr James Daveson, Director of the Coeliac Disease and Immune Health Research Program, brings together clinicians, researchers and international collaborators to develop therapies that advance care in Australia and beyond.



Dr James Daveson, Director of Coeliac Disease and Immune Health Research

Finding the Threshold

How much gluten does it take to trigger an immune response? It is one of the most consequential unanswered questions in coeliac disease, and this year WRI answered it.

A randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled dose-response study led by Dr Daveson found that a dose as small as 3 milligrams of gluten can activate the immune system in people with treated coeliac disease.

The numbers matter because labelling standards differ around the world. In Europe and the United States, and many other parts of the world, products labelled gluten-free may contain up to 20 parts per million, which equates to roughly 5mg of gluten in a 250g meal. Australia and New Zealand's no detectable gluten rule typically keeps exposure below 0.75mg for a similar meal.

The study also mapped where the safe ground lies: doses below 2.4mg did not activate the immune system in 90 per cent of people with coeliac disease, and doses below 0.8mg did not activate it in 95 per cent.

The findings were published in Gastroenterology, with collaborators from The University of Queensland, CSIRO Agriculture and Food, Edith Cowan University and The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute.

There is a second finding with immediate consequences for patients. At higher doses, people with coeliac disease can be very accurate at recognising they have been exposed. At very low doses, Dr Daveson notes, some may not be able to identify inadvertent exposure at all.

Supporting the Coeliac Community

The Coeliac Research Network has grown to more than 3,500 members, bringing together leading clinicians, researchers, patients and families affected by coeliac disease to share knowledge and advance patient outcomes.

As part of the network's offering, WRI continues its coeliac disease webinar series, connecting patients and clinicians with world-leading research and clinical insight. More than 3,700 people have now watched our webinars.

The Year in Numbers

- **1 in 70** Australians affected by coeliac disease
- **More than 80%** remain undiagnosed
- **3mg**, the smallest gluten dose shown to activate the immune system
- **More than 3,500** members of the Coeliac Research Network

Patient Story: How Kira Is Helping to Shape Global Coeliac Research

For Brisbane occupational therapist Kira, coeliac disease came as a complete shock. She had no symptoms, no history of digestive issues and no reason to think anything was wrong. But one routine appointment changed everything. Her diagnosis at 34, which came after a review of her thyroid results, reshaped not only her own life but her children's. Testing her kids proved life changing, and two were later diagnosed with the disease.

When she was invited to participate in WRI's Gluten Threshold Study, Kira didn't hesitate.

"My kids have had coeliac disease most of their lives. Most of their experiences are impacted by food. Anything that makes things simpler and clearer for them is huge," Kira said.

While Australia enforces strict gluten-free standards, some countries allow products labelled gluten-free to contain up to 20 parts per million of gluten (which is equivalent to 20mg per kilogram of food labelled gluten free).

For families like Kira's, stricter standards mean safer food and a healthier future.



Kira, whose own diagnosis and her children's led her to join the Gluten Threshold Study

> *"To think something we've been part of could help change food laws around the world... that's huge."*
>
> *- Kira, Gluten Threshold Study participant*

Looking Ahead

Dr James Daveson and the team are currently working on the forward research program for Coeliac Disease. We are proud to drive research that advances scientific knowledge, informs clinical practice, and contributes to better patient outcomes.

Discover more about Coeliac Disease Research at WRI by scanning QR code or visiting ***www.wesleyresearch.org.au/research-program/coeliac-disease***

Clinical Trials Centre

Every new medicine that reaches a patient passed through people who volunteered first. The Clinical Trials Centre exists for them.

Every year, millions of people face life-threatening illnesses with limited treatment options. Scientific discovery holds enormous promise for the development of new medicines, medical devices and therapies, and clinical trials are how we establish whether they are safe and whether they work.

The Clinical Trials Centre at Wesley Research Institute has been managing trials since 1994, giving patients access to emerging therapies across a broad spectrum of conditions. The Centre runs phase I to IV trials for Australian and international sponsors, with the emphasis on moving proven findings into everyday clinical practice.

These trials are delivered in collaboration with UnitingCare health professionals and global leaders in biotechnology, pharmaceuticals and medical devices. Those partnerships accelerate the development of treatments and technologies, helping bring innovative solutions to market on an international scale.

Research areas of focus:

Coeliac disease:

Research and clinical trials focusing on coeliac disease treatments and immune health conditions.

Cardiology & Critical Care:

Groundbreaking cardiac trials that aim to offer safer and more effective alternatives to traditional open-heart surgery.

Neurology:

Clinical trials that seek to improve brain function for patients with neurological disorders and rare diseases.

Cancer:

Clinical trials evaluating new approaches that may improve outcomes and quality of life for people living with cancer.

Emerging indications:

Supporting clinical trials in an ever-growing breadth of other disease indications across the UnitingCare hospitals in Queensland.

The Centre is committed to delivering a first-class experience for participants, researchers and sponsors. This work is supported by our specialist staff, who handle ethics applications, biostatistical analysis and funding submissions so clinicians and scientists can get on with the research.



The Year in Numbers

- **39** studies
- **104** patients cared for
- **571** visits to Wesley Research Institute

MEET THE TEAM: JACQUI LANGTON, CLINICAL TRIAL COORDINATOR

"I describe my role as being the central link between patients, clinicians, and researchers. I coordinate all aspects of clinical trials to ensure they are conducted safely, ethically, and in strict accordance with protocols."

- Jacqui Langton, Clinical Trial Coordinator



Compassionate nurses and dedicated coordinators are the heart of our trials, and few know that better than Jacqui Langton.

Jacqui commenced at WRI in April 2013 and brings 25 years as a nurse and 13 years as a Clinical Trial Coordinator. She completed her Bachelor of Nursing at Queensland University of Technology and a Postgraduate Certificate in Nursing, with a focus on leadership in practice, at the University of Tasmania. Earlier in her career she worked in paediatrics in the United Kingdom and across a number of London hospitals.

She works within the neurology team, focusing on conditions such as motor neurone disease and muscular dystrophy, the area that accounts for the largest share of our trials. Over the years she has seen a number of the investigational products she worked on go on to be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, putting life-changing treatment within reach of the public.

Colleen's Story: Living, Moving and Advocating for Myotonic Dystrophy Type 1

Living in Victoria Point, Colleen keeps busy with family, daily movement and the fun of being an empty nester with ten grandkids, and another on the way. But alongside her life as a mum, grandma and partner is a long, ongoing journey shaped by Myotonic Dystrophy Type 1 (DM1).

Colleen lived decades without symptoms after learning she carried DM1 in her 30s. It wasn't until age 57, after a day where she fell five times, that the condition made itself known.

Myotonic Dystrophy is a genetic, multisystem disorder characterised by progressive muscle wasting, weakness and myotonia, or difficulty relaxing muscles. The condition can affect skeletal muscle, the heart, eyes and central nervous system. While there is currently no cure, management focuses on addressing symptoms such as cataracts, cardiac complications and mobility challenges.

DM1 runs through Colleen's family in different ways. Her son Brendan was diagnosed at the same time she was, when he was just 13. He carries a larger genetic repeat size and experiences more visible muscle wasting, especially in his legs and hands. Her younger brother also has DM1 and now uses a wheelchair. His daughter, Colleen's niece, has been diagnosed as well and is in the early stages.

It's her love for them that inspired her to join a clinical trial at WRI. She didn't join for herself. She joined for the next generation.

"If this research can stop the condition in its tracks for future children who get diagnosed with Myotonic Dystrophy, then that's worth everything."

- Colleen, clinical trial participant



Colleen with her son Brendan

View all of our active and recruiting clinical trials by scanning the QR code or visiting: **wesleyresearch.org.au/clinical-trials**

Wesley Research Institute Biobank

Every sample in the WRI Biobank was given by someone who agreed that it could help a person they will never meet. Handling it with care, from the moment it's donated to the moment it's used, is how we honour that.

Established in 2007, the Biobank holds more than 40,000 ethically obtained samples, including blood, tissue, DNA, saliva, urine, stool and hair, and is home to the Australian Autism Biobank, the Queensland Brain Tumour Bank and the Justin Cameron Sarcoma Collection. This year we continued our steady work of collecting, processing, storing and distributing samples with care, so that today's trials and tomorrow's discoveries are possible.

- **Clinical trials.** The Biobank supported 14 trials this year in areas including neurology, cancer and rare diseases, covering the collection, processing, storage and shipment of whole blood, serum, plasma, PBMCs, urine, stool and tissue biopsies.
- **Australian Autism Biobank.** Australia's largest and most comprehensive collection of biological samples and data from autistic children and their families, with more than 25,000 biospecimens held at WRI.
- **Placenta-derived cell therapy.** Thirteen placentas were donated by mothers at The Wesley Hospital that would otherwise have been discarded. Amnion cells from the placenta, which can reduce inflammation and promote tissue repair, are being used in a world-first trial exploring a potential treatment for ischemic stroke.
- **Microbiome study.** This year we recruited the final healthy volunteer for the stool collection component of our collaboration with a German biotech company. The samples have been sent to Germany, where they are being analysed to identify beneficial microbes that could one day be developed into treatments for severe and chronic diseases.
- **Long COVID and ME/CFS.** The Biobank processed and stored blood samples from 18 participants for the AusME Biobank, run by Emerge Australia, the national organisation supporting people with these conditions. This ongoing collaboration means Queenslanders living with long COVID and ME/CFS are now represented in this important national research resource.
- **Keeping the collection safe.** The temperature monitoring system for the refrigerators, freezers and temperature-controlled rooms that house our biological samples was upgraded this year. The new system, RampX (ECEFast), is a wireless, cloud-based platform that uses calibrated probes to monitor conditions around the clock and sends automatic alerts if temperatures drift, helping us to safeguard the precious samples our donors have entrusted to us.

WITH THANKS

Wesley Research Institute extends its sincere gratitude to the individuals who have generously donated tissue and other samples to the WRI Biobank. Their contributions are instrumental in advancing scientific knowledge and improving patient care.

The Year in Numbers

- **14 clinical trials** provided biosample support
- **13 placentas donated** for regenerative medicine research
- **More than 40,000** samples in long-term storage
- **More than 25,000** Australian Autism Biobank biospecimens held



Learn more about the WRI Biobank by scanning the QR code or visiting: **wesleyresearch.org.au/biobank**

Clinical Grant Rounds

Through its Clinical Grant Rounds, Wesley Research Institute is fostering a culture of discovery, developing research expertise and cultivating the next generation of clinical research leaders.

The initiative supports healthcare professionals across the UnitingCare network, inspiring doctors, nurses, allied health staff to pursue research that delivers tangible benefits for patients and healthcare services.

From Idea to Evidence - WRI-supported clinical grant projects progress through a comprehensive research framework designed to generate credible evidence, improve healthcare outcomes and protect the wellbeing of research participants.

The Clinical Grant Round Process

During the 2025–26 financial year, it was encouraging to see strong momentum across projects funded in earlier grant rounds. The diagram below illustrates their advancement through the research process and their current status.

Status of Clinical Grant Round Projects

Number of Projects Per Stage

Twenty-three projects are now in progress across the UnitingCare Queensland hospital network.

Ethics and governance approvals	2
Participant recruitment and data collection	9
Data analysis	4
Outcomes sharing and dissemination	8



"Mobile phones are essential tools, but we need to treat them the same way we treat our hands. A ten-second UV-C clean could slot straight into existing hand-washing routines and give patients extra protection."

- Dr Hugh Wright, infectious diseases specialist, St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital



Marjorie and Dr Luke Garske

"I truly believe the device has improved my quality of life. It's allowed me to get back to taking my granddaughter to swimming lessons and even enjoy a recent trip to Melbourne."

Marjorie, clinical trial participant

GRANT PROJECTS MAKING AN IMPACT

From Grant Round to Patient: Marjorie's Story

In patients where cancer is causing fluid to build up outside the lungs, doctors do surgical procedures to try to prevent the fluid building up and subsequent breathing impacts. This project is testing whether a non-invasive method to strengthen the breathing muscles may be a feasible approach to prevent such shortness of breath and improve patient quality of life.

Marjorie is one of the participants. She has lived with breast cancer since 2020 and was hospitalised in May 2025 when fluid around her heart and lungs left her breathless. What the trial gave her back was ordinary life.

Targeting the Superbugs Hiding on Hospital Phones

We all reach for our phones without thinking. On a hospital ward that reflex has consequences, because phones can pick up and spread dangerous bacteria and viruses between patients.

Dr Hugh Wright's project was funded to find out whether ultraviolet-C (UV-C) technology could do something about it. With researchers from the Critical Care Research Group, The University of Queensland and The Prince Charles Hospital, and support from UnitingCare Queensland, the infectious diseases specialist and his team are observing how phones are actually used day to day in intensive care units and operating theatres, and swabbing them before and after a quick ten-second UV-C clean.

Explore our Grant Round Studies by scanning the QR code or visiting: **wesleyresearch.org.au/clinical-grant-round-studies**

Advantage Partnership

Connecting clinicians, researchers and academics to drive better healthcare through research.

The ADVANTAGE Partnership (ADVANced research iniTiAtive in medical, nursinG and alliEd health) is transforming clinical research across UnitingCare hospitals by strengthening academic collaboration between Griffith Health and Wesley Research Institute (WRI).

Launched this year and led by Professor Robert Ware, the partnership brings together clinicians, researchers and academics to advance research across medical, nursing and allied health disciplines.

Fostering a strong research culture, the partnership is creating new opportunities for clinicians to undertake Higher Degree Research programs, such as a Master of Health and Medical Research or PhD through Griffith University. This gives health care professionals the chance to build their research skills, contribute to new knowledge and evidence generation, and shape the future of care while being supported in their clinical roles at UnitingCare.

Translating Clinical Questions into Research Solutions

Projects will draw on shared methodological themes such as innovative clinical trial methods and clinical cohort studies. The initiative will also explore expanded clinical and research placement opportunities and a collaborative research pathway designed to prepare UnitingCare clinicians for research active careers supported by experienced research mentors.

Clinicians and allied health professionals have the opportunity to contribute to high-impact research in areas such as:

- Cancer care
- Cardiovascular disease
- Orthopaedics
- Infectious diseases
- Surgical outcomes
- Emerging healthcare priorities across the UnitingCare network

Research projects are supported by experienced mentors and utilise innovative approaches to investigate the effectiveness and impact of studies.



Professor Robert Ware



Professor Robert Ware is the Director of the Clinical and Academic Research Collaborative at Wesley Research Institute. He is an experienced biostatistician and clinical epidemiologist, with more than 20 years of expertise in clinical and public health.

> *"The ADVANTAGE Partnership is a farsighted joint initiative between Wesley Research Institute and Griffith University that will improve the quality of research and practice within both institutions, and ultimately lead to better health care and outcomes for patients within the UnitingCare system."*
>
> *- Professor Robert Ware, Director of Clinical and Academic Research Collaborative*

Growing a Collaborative Research Portfolio

The ADVANTAGE Partnership has already established a substantial research portfolio, supporting 19 active projects with UnitingCare doctors, nurses and allied health professionals. These include 9 WRI-funded Grant Round projects, 12 clinical trials and 4 grassroots investigator-led studies arising directly from clinical practice in the early stages of design.

We're excited to watch this partnership grow and empower UnitingCare healthcare professionals to lead innovative translatable research and deliver better outcomes for patients through evidence-based care.

Learn more about the ADVANTAGE Partnership by scanning the QR code or visiting:
wesleyresearch.org.au/advantage-partnership

Isaac Navicare

Transforming mental health access across the Bowen Basin through years of research, partnership and community impact.

Rural Queensland communities continue to experience significant mental health challenges, including higher rates of suicide, substance misuse, social isolation and limited access to health services. Geographic distance, workforce shortages and service availability remain key barriers to people seeking and receiving timely support.

To address these challenges, Wesley Research Institute partnered with Queensland University of Technology's Australian Centre for Health Services Innovation (AusHSI), Mitsubishi Development Pty Ltd and key Bowen Basin stakeholders to deliver a three-phase research program aimed at improving access to mental health services for workers and residents across the Bowen Basin.

Navicare officially opened its first hub at the Moranbah Youth & Community Centre in 2021. Staffed by a full-time Mental Health Care Navigator, the hub provided personalised support and access to a private consultation space where clients could participate in telehealth appointments with assistance from Navicare staff. In April 2023, the service expanded into Tieri and Capella within the neighbouring Central Highlands region, in response to identified community need and requests from local educators, expanding further into the Sarina and Clermont catchments. The team continued to deliver a combination of face-to-face and remote support, ensuring accessible care across the geographically diverse Isaac region and parts of the Central Highlands (Tieri/Capella) and Mackay (Sarina) local government areas, and have supported more than 1,206 individuals since operations commenced in November 2021.



Care Navigators Keeley Ryan, Sherrie Farnell and Liana Irving

Connecting Communities to Care in 2025- 2026

Throughout the last year, Isaac Navicare continued to provide accessible, locally based mental health care navigation across the Isaac region through hubs in Moranbah, Clermont and Sarina. Strong demand for the service highlighted the ongoing need for rural mental health support, while partnerships with health, education and community organisations strengthened referral pathways and access to care. Community engagement initiatives also helped raise awareness, reduce stigma and encourage help-seeking across the region.

> *"The continued demand for Care Navigation services demonstrates that people need support not only to identify services, but to understand how to access them and overcome the barriers that often exist in rural and regional communities."*
>
> *- Sherrie Farnell, Care Navigator*

ISAAC NAVICARE
HEALTH NAVIGATION SERVICE

The Year in Numbers

- Supported **1,206 individuals** since 2021
- **9% of clients returning for additional support**

The Bridging Study

Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and regional stakeholders are partnering to deliver The Bridging Study, a multi-phase research initiative evaluating the Navicare mental health service across rural Queensland. The study is assessing Navicare's impact on local healthcare systems, including hospitals and emergency services. Its final phase in 2026, led by QUT's AusHSI, will explore the facilitators and barriers to implementing, scaling, and sustaining the Navicare program, both within the region and nationally.

Delivering on a vision for better mental health

While FY26 marked the final funded year of Isaac Navicare, the impact of the service will extend well beyond its operational lifespan. The legacy of Isaac Navicare lies not only in the people it has supported, but also in the stronger relationships, improved service coordination and increased understanding of community mental health needs that have been developed throughout the life of the program.

The achievements of the Isaac Navicare service provide a compelling foundation for future investment in community-based mental health care navigation and highlight the important role these services can play in improving access, reducing barriers and supporting positive mental health outcomes for regional Australians.

> "I am so proud of what Navicare has achieved for our communities. While I'm sad to see the funded cycle of the service ending, I am certain that the ongoing evaluation of Navicare through The Bridging Study will demonstrate the clear and overwhelmingly positive impact on community mental health and wellbeing, providing government with the robust evidence for future service models across rural and remote communities nationally."
>
> *- Kelly McGrath, Isaac Navicare*

Partnership Impact and Legacy

Mitsubishi Development

Wesley Research Institute extends its sincere thanks to Mitsubishi Development Pty Ltd (MDP) for many years of committed partnership.

MDP's investment made possible a program that was genuinely responsive to community need, from the earliest consultations with local stakeholders through to the longitudinal evaluation that will inform mental health service delivery in the region for years to come. This corporate partnership has underpinned real outcomes for people and communities throughout the region and has helped build the case for community-based approaches to mental health care.

Future Focus

A strategy is a set of choices about what matters most. This year we made ours, and began putting it to work.

As we completed the final year of our 2024–2026 Strategic Plan, Wesley Research Institute developed and adopted Strategy 2026–2029: Transforming Lives Through Research.

It arrives at a pivotal moment for Australian medical research. The newly released National Health and Medical Research Strategy 2026–2036 defines the national agenda for the decade ahead. The priorities we have set are distinctly our own, and firmly connected to that broader landscape.

Our Strategic Priorities

Our strategy flows from a single identity — an innovation-led research institute. We prove research leadership through flagship programs such as the Queensland Spatial Biology Centre (QSBC), realise it through the partnerships and infrastructure that scale our work, sustain it through diversified growth and strong governance, and ground it all in our people and culture. Our strategic priorities help turn our vision into action.

RESEARCH INNOVATION & TRANSLATION

Where our innovation leadership is proven. We build world-class research programs and move them from discovery towards clinical practice.

WHAT WE'LL DO

- Grow QSBC as a flagship program
- Nurture high-potential programs including Coeliac Disease
- Develop research pipeline via clinical excellence investment with UnitingCare Health

RESEARCH ECOSYSTEM, INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES

Great research needs strong foundations. We secure partnerships, platforms and services — from clinical trials to biobanking — that give researchers the time, tools and access to succeed.

WHAT WE'LL DO

- Secure university, industry & hospital partnerships
- Integrate QSBC into The Wesley Comprehensive Cancer Centre and establish the Digital Biobank
- Scale clinical trials to 4–5 disease areas
- Establish a consumer advisory framework

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH, IMPACT & ENGAGEMENT

Ambition must be funded and governed well. We diversify revenue beyond philanthropy, strengthen governance, and measure and share our impact so growth is sustainable and accountable.

WHAT WE'LL DO

- Invest in capability; strengthen governance for impact
- Revenue diversity through implementation of comprehensive funding strategies
- Measure, communicate and report impact

PEOPLE & CULTURE

Our people are our greatest strength. We attract, retain and develop the scientific and clinical talent — and the culture of research — that makes everything else possible.

WHAT WE'LL DO

- Embed scientific & clinician expertise in leadership/governance
- Nurture a culture of research with UCH
- Build for future progress by strengthening the capability and performance of all our people

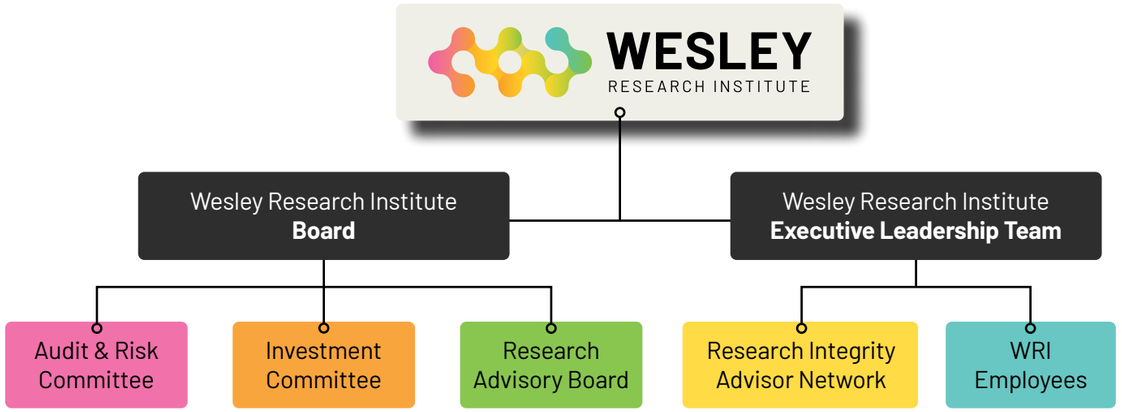
Turning Strategy Into Action

The strategy is delivered across three horizons. The first year advances the innovation ecosystem: building industry partnerships and commercialisation pathways, developing the Digital Biobank model, advancing the coeliac research program and scaling clinical trials. Years two and three grow research capability and capacity through The Wesley Comprehensive Cancer Centre and a widening portfolio of clinical excellence projects. Beyond that, we deepen research impact, with population-level outcomes research driving changes to practice and policy.

Underpinning all of it is a framework for measuring whether we are succeeding, aligned to Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes (AAMRI) national approach. What that means is simple. When we tell you a discovery is moving from the laboratory towards a patient, or that a partnership is building capability in Queensland, we are describing progress the whole sector has agreed matters.

Governance

Under the strategic leadership of our Board and Committees, WRI continues to deliver world-class research that improves patient outcomes and contributes to the global body of scientific knowledge. Our governance framework ensures the highest standards of compliance, accountability, and sector best practice, supporting the achievement of our organisational goals with integrity.



Executive Leadership Team



Andrew Barron
Chief Executive Officer

Leading the Executive Leadership Team, Andrew is responsible for the achievement of the strategic goals of WRI and oversees its various operations.



Steve Munro
Chief Financial Officer

Steve oversees the organisation's financial management and plays a pivotal role in driving economic sustainability. He is committed to ensuring the efficient use of financial resources.



Sherman Leung
Head of Research Operations

Sherman is responsible for the strategic planning and operation of the Clinical Trials Centre, WRI Biobank, Research Office and Research Programs.



David Sloan
Head of Philanthropy

David is committed to advancing the organisation's goals by cultivating strategic partnerships, implementing effective fundraising strategies, and fostering a culture of philanthropy.

As We Look Ahead

This strategy gives us a clear framework for growth, collaboration and impact. Working alongside our researchers, partners, patients and communities, we will continue to advance discoveries that build a healthier future for all.

Explore our new strategy by scanning the QR code



People and Culture

Exceptional outcomes have been achieved throughout the year by exceptional people at Wesley Research Institute. During the year, we delivered a range of initiatives that strengthened employee engagement, improved workforce capability, and enhanced organisational compliance.

Key achievements included the implementation of the Employee Voice Survey to better understand staff experience and inform future planning, ongoing enhancements to HR processes, improvements to onboarding and employee lifecycle management, support for flexible work arrangements, and continued focus on our people, performance, and compliance obligations. These initiatives contributed to a more consistent employee experience, increased visibility of workforce trends, strengthened governance and risk management practices, and provided leaders with greater insight to support workforce planning and decision-making.



WRI employees participating in Bridge to Brisbane, raising funds for vital medical research.

Our Board



Mr Charlie Sartain
Chairman



Mr Andrew Barron
Chief Executive Officer



Dr John Lumley
Board Member



Dr Shanthi Kanagarajah
Board Member



Mr Neal O'Connor
Board Member



Ms Karen Read
Board Member



Mr Warren Bamford
Board Member



Ms Donna Shkalla
Board Member



Ms Tess van der Rijt
Board Member



Prof David McGiffin
Board Member



Mr Colin Jensen
Board Member

We recognise and thank our retiring Board member



Ms Mairi McNeill

Our sincere thanks to our Patrons for their continued contribution and support



Associate Professor John Allan



Emeritus Professor John Pearn AO



Mr Martin Albrecht AC



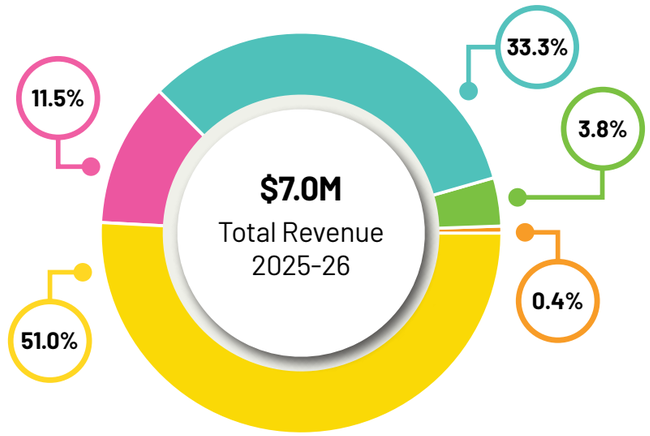
Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM Governor of Queensland

Financial Summary

Income

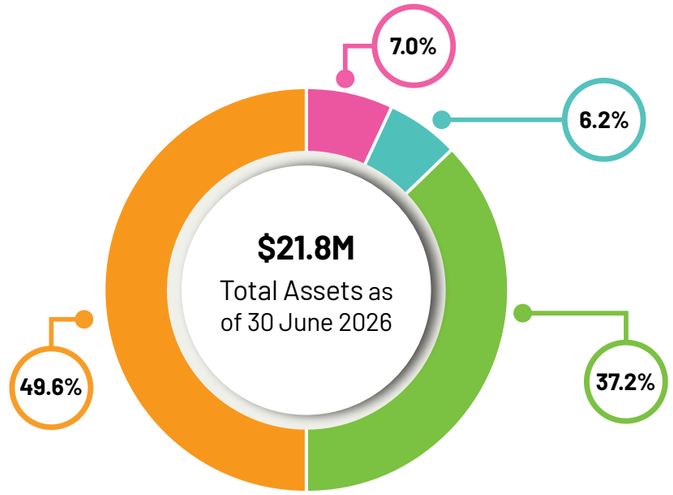
Total Income in 2025-26 was **$7.0M** compared to $9.0M in 2024-25

- **33.3%** Gifts, Donations & Sponsorships
- **3.8%** Grants
- **0.4%** Bequests
- **51.0%** Fee for Service Income
- **11.5%** Investment Income



Assets

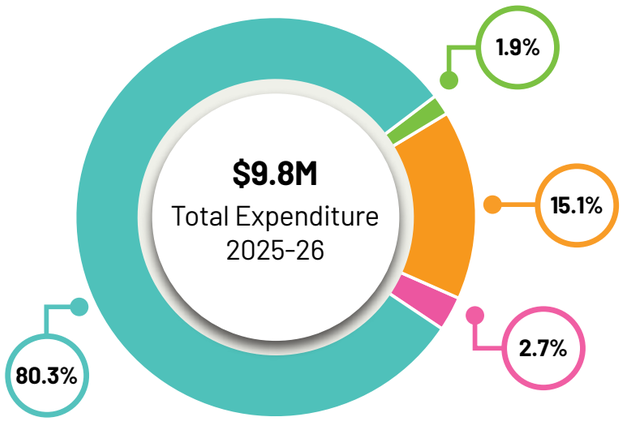
- **49.6%** Investments
- **7.0%** Cash
- **6.2%** Trade Receivables & Other Assets
- **37.2%** Property, Plant & Equipment



Expenditure

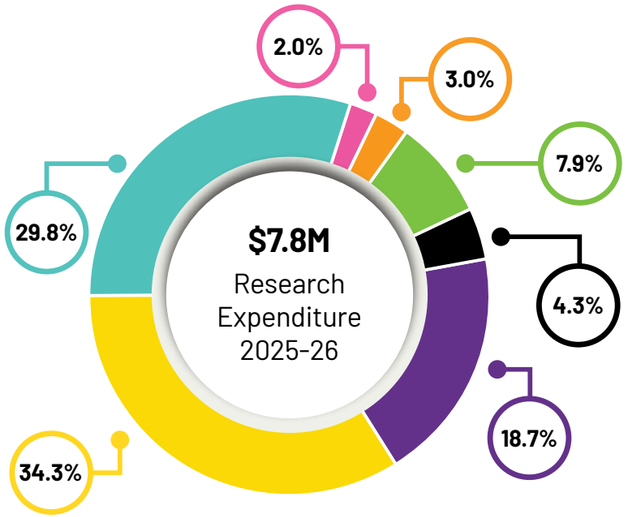
Total Expenditure in 2025-26 was **$9.8M** compared to $8.9M in 2024-25

- **80.3%** Research
- **1.9%** Investment Activity
- **15.1%** Fundraising & Marketing
- **2.7%** Corporate Services



Research Expenditure

- **3.0%** Coeliac Disease & Immune Health
- **7.9%** Health Services Research
- **4.3%** Cardiovascular Program
- **18.7%** Queensland Spatial Biology Centre
- **34.3%** Research Grants
- **29.8%** Clinical Trials
- **2.0%** Biobank



Our Giving Community

Behind every research breakthrough is a community of people who believe in a better future.

To everyone who supported Wesley Research Institute in 2025–26, thank you. Your generosity helps advance the research, clinical trials and innovation that bring hope to patients and families facing serious illness.

We are proud to recognise many of our supporters by name below. Others have chosen to give anonymously. Whether your name appears here or not, your support is deeply valued and sincerely appreciated.

Together, you are helping create a healthier future through medical research.

Thank you for being part of our giving community.

Dr John Allan and Dr Janet Allan

Mr Peter Allen and Mrs Anne Allen

Mr John Allpass AM

Mr Graham Brown

Mr Salvatore Catalano

Mr Mick Cranny

Dr Jon Douglas AM and Mrs Kay Douglas

Mr Wal Edgar

Ms Louise Etlin

Dr Robyn Ferguson and Mr Ralph Ferguson

Mrs Patrice Foote and Mr John Foote

Dr Troy Gianduzzo and Mrs Karelia Gianduzzo

Ms Marian Gibney

Mr Alan Grummitt and Mrs Wendy Grummitt

Mr David Hairsine and Ms Louise Mercer

Mr Peter Henderson OAM

Dr Alex Markwell and Mr Anthony Allan

Mr Tom McKerrell

Dr Cathryn Mittelheuser AM

Mr Neal O'Connor

Mr Sid Owen and Professor Emeritus Glenda Strachan

Mr Neil Packer and Mrs Jan Packer

Mr Richard Hughes

Ms Susan Rix AM

Mr Hugh Sheardown AM and Mrs Beverly Sheardown

Mr Jason Steer

Mrs Maureen Stevenson

Mrs Anne Stitz

Mr Trevor Petersen and Mrs Margaret Petersen

Mrs Helen Wang

Corporate Partners

JJ Richards & Sons P/L

Macquarie Bank

Mitsubishi Development

UnitingCare Health

Trusts & Foundations

The Albrecht Foundation

Borgert Family Endowment

Brazil Family Foundation

Catalano Family Foundation

The Cory Charitable Foundation (in memory of Richard Yates)

Crick Family Trust

The Edward Bullock Endowment

The Greatorex Fund

Harding Family Philanthropy Committee

Justin Cameron Cancer Care Foundation

Perpetual Trustee Company Limited

Queensland Gives (QCF)

The Sartain Family Foundation

Stack Family Foundation

VidyaJey Foundation

Bequests/In Memoriam

Estate of Eileen Edna Dukes

Estate of the Late Fay Gwendoline Hampson

In Memory of Mr Gim Keat Ooi

Irene Patricia Hunt Memorial Trust

Rosalie Martin Memorial Fund

Supporting coeliac research, and a donor acknowledgement.

As an emergency physician, Dr Alex Markwell never expected coeliac disease to hit so close to home. First her six year old daughter Margot was diagnosed, pale, tired, iron deficient and struggling to grow. Then, a year later, Alex received the same diagnosis herself.

Suddenly, life became a maze of hidden gluten, "may contain" labels, cross contamination risks and the challenge of feeding a selective eater safely. Even with medical knowledge, the gluten-free transition was exhausting.

But the change in Margot was incredible and she was skipping, running and swimming like never before.

Now, Alex's commitment to medical research is driven by the desire for better diagnostics, better treatments and better outcomes for her family. She's inspired by the groundbreaking coeliac disease research happening at the Wesley Research Institute, offering hope for treatment options beyond the gluten free diet.

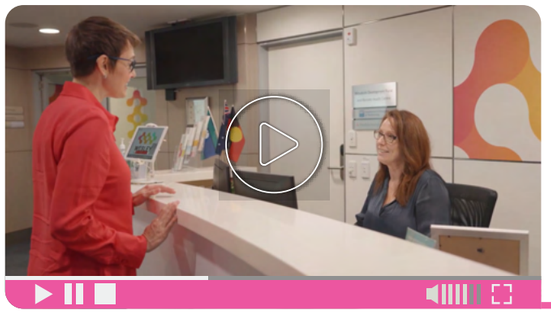
"Adjunct treatment options are really, really important... the reality of having a strictly gluten-free diet is pretty hard. Where there are other options, I think that is amazing."

Alex believes every contribution matters. For her, supporting research isn't just about science; it's about giving families like hers a better future, one discovery at a time.

"Although any advances in coeliac disease care may or may not be relevant for me personally, I really hope that they are for my daughter and for any of her children, because they'll potentially carry that gene as well. That was a strong motivator for supporting and donating to medical research."

- Dr Alex Markwell





Hear from Alex on why she chooses to support research.

Scan the QR code or watch here:
youtu.be/8T6-1VLMoeE



The next breakthrough starts with people like you.

Behind every research breakthrough is a patient or family hoping for a better answer. Your donation can help Wesley Research Institute continue searching for better ways to diagnose, treat and care for people facing serious illness.

Please make a gift today and help move research closer to the people waiting for it.

I would like to give a gift of:

☐ $75 ☐ $150 ☐ $300 ☐ $500

OR ☐ Surprise us $ _____

Donations of $2 or more are tax-deductible.
A tax receipt will be sent to the address or email provided.

OR

I would like to make a monthly gift:

☐ $20 ☐ $30 ☐ $50

OR ☐ My choice of $ _____

A monthly gift gives researchers steady and reliable support they can count on as they work towards better answers for patients and families.

I would like to make my gift by:

Credit card
Please debit my: ☐ VISA ☐ mastercard ☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS

Card number: ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ Expiry: ☐☐/☐☐ CCV: ☐☐☐

Cardholder's name: _____ Signature: _____

Bank transfer
Reference: Your surname

BSB: 014 272
A/C number: 8365 649 65
A/C name: Wesley Research Institute Ltd
Bank: ANZ Bank

Phone
(07) 3721 1500
Mon- Fri 8:30am to 4:30pm

Website (or scan QR code)
wesleyresearch.org.au/get-involved/donate
(get your receipt straight away via email)

My personal details are:

Name: _____ Address: _____

Email: _____

Mobile: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

Be part of every breakthrough to come

☐ Please send me information about leaving a gift in my Will to Wesley Research Institute.

☐ I have already included Wesley Research Institute in my Will

Please return this form to:
Wesley Research Institute
PO Box 499, Toowong QLD 4066

THANK YOU! Your generosity helps researchers keep searching for answers that could improve and save lives.

Your privacy is important to us: Personal information is collected by Wesley Research Institute to process donations, issue tax receipts, and keep you informed about our work. We may send you information about fundraising or other activities which may interest you. For full details, see our privacy policy at **wesleyresearch.org.au/privacy-policy**
ABN: 85 066 149 666



We are deeply grateful to our incredible community of donors whose ongoing support empowers us to create lasting impact. For more information on how you can support vital research with a monthly gift, email giving@wesleyresearch.org.au or scan the QR code.

wesleyresearch.org.au/
get-involved/donate

WESLEY
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Donate

Phone:
07 3721 1500

Email:
giving@wesleyresearch.org.au

Website:
Scan the QR code or visit:
wesleyresearch.org.au/get-involved/donate

Follow us on socials

LinkedIn Wesley Research Institute
www.linkedin.com/company/wesley-research

Twitter/X @WesleyResearch
www.twitter.com/WesleyResearch

Facebook Wesley Research Institute
www.facebook.com/wesleyresearchinstitute

Instagram @wesleyresearchinstitute
www.instagram.com/wesleyresearchinstitute

Youtube @wesleyresearchinstitute
www.youtube.com/@wesleyresearchinstitute

REGISTERED CHARITY
acnc.gov.au/charityregister