80TH ANNIVERSARY
SPECIAL EDITION

LifeLab

The latest news from **QIMR Berghofer**

ISSUE 124 | AUTUMN 2025

A promising new therapy for deadly breast cancer

Global study reveals hundreds of new genetic links to depression

Funding for impact of climate change on mosquito-borne viruses

QIMR Berghofer

80 years of pioneering medical research

LifeLab

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Message from the Director

Welcome to the second special collector's edition of LifeLab, celebrating 80 years of QIMR Berghofer.

This milestone year is an opportunity to reflect on our rich history in pioneering medical research—and, more importantly, to engage with you, our supporters, as we shape the future of healthcare.

In this issue, we spotlight some of our latest research breakthroughs. Our cover story features a world-first clinical trial for metastatic triple-negative breast cancer, an aggressive disease predominantly affecting women under 40 years of age. Led by Professor Sudha Rao and her team, this trial is testing a promising combination therapy, offering new hope for extending patients' lives.

We also explore Australia's role in the world's largest and most diverse genetics of depression study, which has uncovered nearly 300 previously unknown genetic links to the condition. These insights are paving the way for better treatments and interventions for millions of people worldwide.

Continuing our deep dive into the Institute's history, this edition takes you through the transformative 1970s and 1980s—a pivotal era for Queensland medical research.

Our 80th anniversary celebrations are in full swing, with events across Queensland—from Townsville to Toowoomba—culminating in a black-tie gala dinner in November in Brisbane. Stay up to date with our calendar of events on our website, and we hope to see you at one soon!

Most of all, this anniversary is about recognising the incredible people who make our work possible. We look forward to meeting and thanking you, our valued supporters, throughout the year.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to medical research.

Happy reading!

Professor Fabienne Mackay
Director and CEO

Contents

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FEATURE

World-first clinical trial to test promising therapy for deadly breast cancer

A collaboration between QIMR Berghofer scientists and Australian drug company Kazia Therapeutics could offer hope to patients with triple-negative breast cancer.

"Our pre-clinical findings have given us real hope that the drug paxalisib could ensure immunotherapy is effective for more patients."

– PROFESSOR SUDHA RAO

A promising combination therapy that offers a new approach to targeting a highly aggressive and treatment-resistant type of breast cancer, has advanced to clinical trial for the first time. This treatment could offer hope for patients who have few options to treat the deadly disease.

The world-first clinical trial is recruiting 24 women with metastatic triple-negative breast cancer to receive the combination therapy at sites in Queensland.

The trial stems from pivotal research led by QIMR Berghofer scientists in collaboration with Australian drug development company Kazia Therapeutics whose drug candidate paxalisib was combined with immunotherapy in pre-clinical models.

Triple-negative breast cancer

Triple-negative breast cancer is more commonly diagnosed in women under 40 years of age.

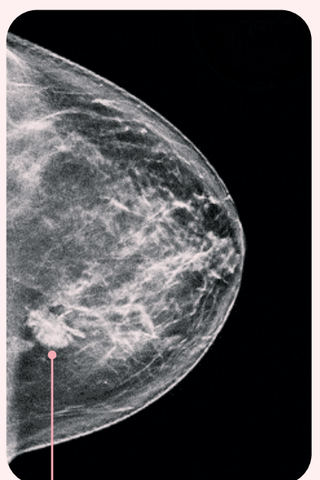
If the disease has spread to other parts of the body, treatment options are very limited, with immunotherapy and other standard treatments only effective for a small subset of patients.

There is an urgent need for new treatment options.

"There is no cure for advanced triple-negative breast cancer and the life expectancy for these women is tragically short.

We want to identify treatments to extend the duration and quality of life of these patients."

– PROFESSOR SUDHA RAO



Mammogram of breast showing lesion.

The team discovered this combination of therapies targeted dormant cancer cells that drive the spread and recurrence of the disease, making them visible to the immune system while also reinvigorating the immune system to fight the tumour cells.

QIMR Berghofer's Professor Sudha Rao hoped to prolong survival of patients through the new combined therapy.

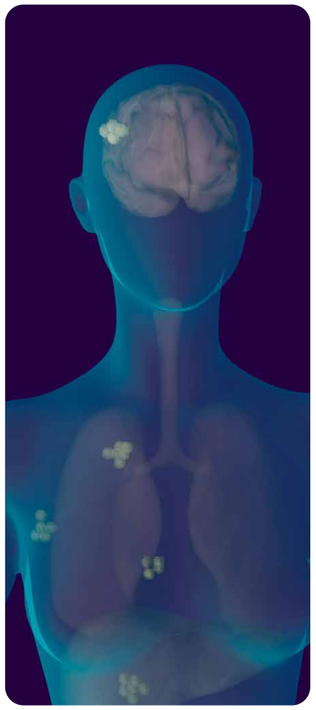
"Immunotherapy works by activating the patients' own immune system to fight off cancer. This combination therapy could be a game changer because we know immunotherapy is only successful in a handful of patients with metastatic triple-negative breast cancer. Our pre-clinical findings have given us real hope that paxalisib could ensure immunotherapy is effective for more patients," Professor Rao said.

Paxalisib was designed to treat brain cancers and has the unique ability to cross the blood-brain barrier. This is significant for metastatic triple-negative breast cancer patients because the brain is one of the most common sites the cancer spreads to when disease progresses.

Professor Sudha Rao and Dr John Friend.

"The novelty of the science that Professor Rao has proposed with this dual combination of paxalisib and immunotherapy could advance the treatment of women with aggressive breast cancer, and we are excited to support this unique clinical study."

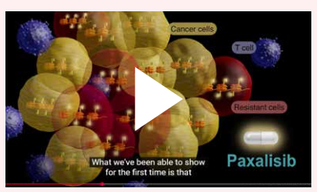
– DR JOHN FRIEND
CEO, KAZIA THERAPEUTICS



Model showing the spread of cancer to other organs. The brain is a common site for this type of cancer to spread.

▶ WATCH

Watch a video about this research.



Support this trial

With more funding, this trial has potential to be expanded.

If you would like to help more people have the opportunity to benefit, please contact us at **supportus@qimrb.edu.au.**

FEATURE

Global study reveals hundreds of new genetic links to depression

Australia has contributed vital research into a worldwide depression study with the findings offering fresh hope into improving treatment and supporting those with the condition.

“Larger, more inclusive studies like this will help us develop better treatments and interventions, ultimately improving lives and reducing the global impact of the condition. It will also reinforce the evidence that mental health conditions are as biologically based as other conditions like heart disease.”

– DR BRITTANY MITCHELL

Australian researchers involved in the world’s largest and most diverse study of the genetics of depression have revealed nearly 300 previously unknown genetic links to the condition.

The discoveries will help scientists better predict depression risk and could pave the way for new, more effective drug treatments, including repurposing medications already on the market.

Each genetic variant has a very small effect on the overall risk of someone developing depression.

But if a person has multiple variants, these small effects can add up and increase their risk.

QIMR Berghofer researcher Dr Brittany Mitchell said our currently limited scientific understanding of depression made it hard to improve outcomes for those affected.

“While depression is a growing major health issue, we lack the insights needed to better treat and prevent it,” she said.

“Larger, more inclusive studies like this will help us develop better treatments and interventions, ultimately improving lives and reducing the global impact of the condition. It will also reinforce the evidence that mental health conditions are as biologically based as other conditions like heart disease.”

Australia’s contribution to the international study was vital.

More than 50 of the newly identified gene variants came via results from the Australian Genetics of Depression Study (AGDS), a database of 16,000 participants with depression and 18,000 without depression who provided saliva samples for analysis.

UQ scientist and AGDS co-lead analyst Dr Enda Byrne said the findings were a step towards understanding depression at a biological level.

“Our research has identified numerous genetic factors that contribute to the condition, showing that it involves a complex mix of genes. These findings offer new opportunities to improve how we treat and support those with depression,” he said.

Moreover, the findings indicate that drugs used to treat chronic pain and the sleep disorder narcolepsy could potentially be repurposed for the treatment of depression, suggesting directions for future research and clinical trials.

About the study

Since 2017, the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium (PGC), led by the University of Edinburgh and King’s College in London and including researchers from QIMR Berghofer, The University of Queensland (UQ) and the Brain and Mind Centre in Sydney, have been analysing data collected in 29 countries (one in four from a non-European background).

PARTICIPANTS

Genetic data from 680,000 people with depression.	Genetic data from 4 million people who had not experienced depression.

RESULTS

697 genetic variants linked to depression.	300 of these variants were previously unknown.

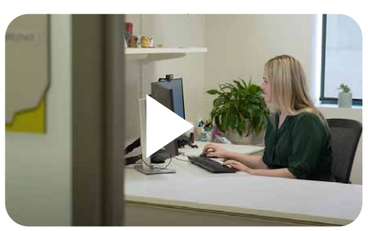
“Our research has identified numerous genetic factors that contribute to the condition, showing that it involves a complex mix of genes.

These findings offer new opportunities to improve how we treat and support those with depression.”

– DR ENDA BYRNE

▶ WATCH

Watch a video about this research.



For more info or to participate in the ongoing Australian Genetics of Depression Study, scan the code, or visit geneticsofdepression.org.au.

FEATURE

Celebrating 80 years of medical research in Queensland – Part 2

As we celebrate QIMR Berghofer's 80th, we're taking a look back at the Institute's history.

In this second of a four-part deep dive into QIMR Berghofer's history we explore the 1970s and 1980s.

80th Anniversary Event Calendar

QIMR Berghofer will be commemorating our 80th year with a full calendar of events across Queensland, including:

3 April: Toowoomba Donor and Community Event

17 June: Gold Coast Donor and Community Event

1 July: Sunshine Coast Donor and Community Event

19 July: Brisbane Open House

22 July: Townsville Donor and Community Event

1 November: Gala Dinner (Brisbane)

For the full calendar of events, visit qimrb.edu.au/80th-anniversary.

After more than 30 years in Hut 8 at Victoria Park / Barrambin, construction of the new site starts on Bramston Terrace. The building was completed (as shown top of page) in 1977.

1970s

QIMR formally establishes its first Aboriginal health research unit

The unit was set up in 1971 to investigate why certain illnesses were so much higher in First Nations communities than in the wider community.

After 30 years, finally new premises

The disused World War II army Hut 8 in Victoria Park, where the Institute was established in 1945, had only ever been intended as temporary premises. However it remained the Institute's headquarters for more than 30 years, despite lobbying by Institute founder Dr Edward Derrick, Director Professor Ralph Doherty, and the QIMR Council.

A site was suggested at the back of the (former) Royal Children's Hospital within the Royal Brisbane Hospital campus off Bramston Terrace, but money was an issue. The Queensland Government would not commit to the expected £68,000 price tag. After plans were scaled back and budgets pruned, QIMR moved into new premises in 1977. The Herston busway now stands at the site of the original Hut 8.

Institute Director, Professor Chev Kidson and other scientists.

1980s

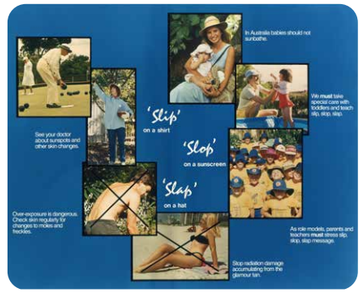
Focus expands from local to international

Director Professor Chev Kidson, was credited for his tremendous role in transforming QIMR from a small—but well-respected—medical research body working mostly on local health issues, into an international player.

Professor Kidson saw health and disease intertwined with economic development and tropical countries grappling with endemic infections and swirling epidemics. He felt a social responsibility to help near neighbours while acknowledging that with increased air travel, diseases could spread fast and it was in Queensland's interests to work to contain, prevent or cure illnesses offshore that had the potential to affect locals.

The re-emergence of dengue fever in North Queensland was reported in 1981 along with cases in Texas, USA. The Institute's Professor Brian Kay was world-renowned for his mosquito control tactics and quickly initiated successful control measures.

By the mid-1980s, QIMR was recognised as Australia's centre for medical entomology, best able to mobilise expertise and effort to control mosquito-borne diseases. The Institute was also a World Health Organisation reference centre for arboviruses.



An early 'Slip!, Slop!, Slap!' campaign.

QIMR nurses count the number of moles of different sizes of study participants.

Professor Brian Kay testing for mosquitoes in pooling water.

Research expands into cancer and genetics

Under Director Professor Kidson, research expanded into various cancers, looking at genetics and epidemiology, links between diet and cancers, and viral-influenced cancers. The Institute became synonymous with skin cancer research as Queensland became known as the melanoma capital of the world.

In 1986, epidemiologist Professor Adele Green sought the support of the Nambour community to study changes in skin cancer development. Spanning 20 years, this research led to the world's most extensive population study of skin cancer and confirmed the effectiveness of regular sunscreen use in minimising the most common form of skin cancer, squamous cell cancer. Its success paved the way for the Cancer Council's popular 'Slip, Slop, Slap!' sun safety campaign.

Expansion of QIMR

During the 1980s staff numbers boomed from 60 to 150 and in 1988, the Institute was transferred from being part of the Department of Health's organisational structure to a statutory body with increased responsibilities. The QIMR Council was tasked with administering the Institute directly, on behalf of the Minister of Health.

Scientists during the 1970s - 1980s

Professor Chev Kidson

Institute Director from 1978 to 1990, credited with boosting QIMR's visibility and presence on the global stage.

Professor Brian Kay

Entomologist renowned for mosquito control techniques who was part of the QIMR team for 51 years.

Professor Adele Green

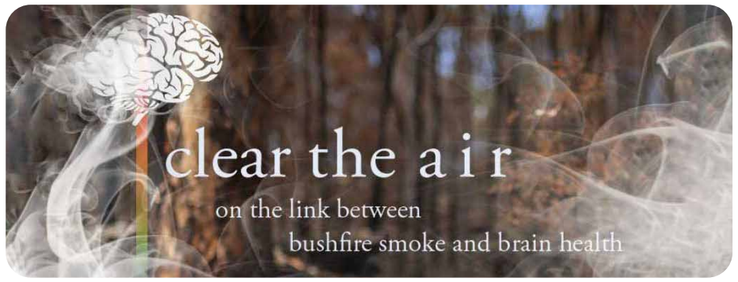
Epidemiologist who led an extensive study into sun exposure and skin damage.

SUPPORTING RESEARCH

More than $87,000 raised for dementia research

Following our Clear the Air campaign, which was featured in the last issue of LifeLab, generous supporters have donated more than $87,000 for research into the link between bushfire smoke exposure and dementia.

QIMR Berghofer's Associate Professor Michelle Lupton will use these funds to lead a study on the risk bushfire smoke poses to our brain health. Associate Professor Lupton's study will examine volunteer firefighters and her findings could help all Australians mitigate risks and protect their brain health. The funds raised will go directly to this important research.



"Thank you for investing in this important research. Your gift means so much to me. Dementia affects the lives of too many Australians, and now with your help, I hope to clear the air on the link between bushfire smoke exposure and brain health."

– ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MICHELLE LUPTON

Patricia and Ian McBain.

A legacy of love – keeping a promise to medical research

Late last year Ian McBain reached out to us to make a special donation in honour of his late wife, Patricia. The couple recognised the incredible work done by QIMR Berghofer researchers and had intended to make the gift together before her passing.

Keeping the promise the pair had made, and with daughter Allison by his side, the day Ian made his gift was full of emotion.

Inspired by memories of his beloved wife, Ian made the incredible decision to double his donation to $200,000. This extraordinary gift will support vital research efforts to solve some of the most pressing health challenges of our time and potentially save lives.

Sadly, Ian passed away only a few weeks later. Through their generosity, Ian and Patricia's legacy will advance breakthroughs in medical research and give hope to patients and families in Queensland and across the world.

We are incredibly grateful to the McBain family, their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren for their commitment to the future health of our community.

The Josephine Circle – supporting women in research

A very special group of women have joined forces to launch the Institute's innovative new philanthropic group, The Josephine Circle.

This powerful giving circle will help address the gender funding gap that persists in medical research by supporting female scientists with transformative grants.

The Josephine Circle is named in honour of Dr Josephine Mackerras, a pioneering zoologist, entomologist and parasitologist. Dr Mackerras was renowned for her research into malaria and parasites and was an integral member of the (then) Queensland Institute of Medical Research during her tenure from 1947–1961.

QIMR Berghofer's first female Director and CEO, Professor Fabienne Mackay, and founding members are excited to announce The Josephine Circle to the public and celebrate the impact of collective giving.

"I felt compelled to join The Josephine Circle as a founding member because I wanted to make a meaningful impact for the next generation of women in medical research. It's clear that women face unique challenges in this field.

By supporting female scientists, we are not only helping them overcome these hurdles, but also paving the way for discoveries that will benefit us all."

–ROBYN HOLDWAY FOUNDING MEMBER

Dr Josephine Mackerras (née Bancroft).

For more information or to join the Josephine Circle, please visit qimrb.edu.au/support-us/the-josephine-circle.

Better Health Together

An opportunity to shape our research

At some point in your life, you have been a consumer of health and medical services that exist thanks to medical research. Through your experiences, either personally or in caring for others, you've gained a unique insight that could help make our research more impactful for the wider community.

We're committed to bringing this insight to the work we do. Our Better Health Together program is designed to connect you with our scientists so you may contribute your voice, ideas and skills to the research process.

What your involvement in research can look like

There are many ways that health consumers and community members can contribute to the research journey.

You may:

- Help to refine our research priorities based on community need or your own lived-experiences;
- Co-design a research project and influence the way it's carried out;
- Work with researchers to develop lay summaries of research concepts;
- Act as a citizen scientist on a research team;
- Help us communicate findings to the wider community;
- Give input on how findings can be translated into patient care;
- Become a member of the CAG (see details below).

Many projects will offer compensation to recognise your time, input and expertise

Join our Better Health Together program today and work with us to realise a world of better health and wellbeing through impactful medical research, like the collaboration with the Mosquito Control Laboratory, see story at right on page 11.

For more information, visit

qimrb.edu.au/whats-on/visit-us/involvement.

Members of the Better Health Together group meet with researchers online.

Community Advisory Group (CAG)

The role of the Community Advisory Group is to bring a community perspective to QIMR Berghofer's research priorities and help researchers to involve community and health consumers in their projects.

Our CAG has six community members with varied backgrounds and a wealth of experience as health consumers and advocates in mental health, disabilities, infant and youth chronic illness, telehealth, and health education.

CAG Member Profile

Brydget Barker-Hudson

CAG member Brydget Barker-Hudson has a keen interest in contributing to the success of the Mosquito Control Laboratory project (see story at right) as she lives in Townsville - a community vulnerable to arbovirus outbreaks. "QIMR Berghofer brought my late husband and I to Australia [from PNG]...he worked [at the Institute] as a medical entomologist in the early 1980s researching dengue, Ross River and other arboviruses."

Brydget has a background in medical, environmental and agricultural research. She has worked for many years as a dispute resolution specialist following becoming a lawyer. Brydget gives generously of her time as a health consumer and community member on many boards and panels. She is also a dedicated Rotarian. "Although I still endeavour to keep abreast of current medical and social research, I have a genuine interest historically and in the present QIMR Berghofer, its work and its place in Queensland. I am honoured to be part of its future development."

Impact of climate change on mosquito-borne viruses attracts major funding

QIMR Berghofer has been awarded almost $1 million to develop innovative approaches to the surveillance and control of mosquito-borne viruses and the insects that transmit them.

The grant was part of the National Health and Medical Research Council's (NHMRC) Targeted Call for Research (TCR) grants.

The Climate-Related Health Impacts and Effective Interventions to Improve Health grant will enable researchers to better understand the current and future impacts of climate change on the health and wellbeing of Australians and on health system demand.

QIMR Berghofer Director and CEO Professor Fabienne Mackay said the world's changing climate would impact human health in Australia and across the world.

"QIMR Berghofer researchers are leading a multidisciplinary project that includes investigators from the University of Queensland, and citizen scientists. It will generate the evidence and decision-support tools that will enable public health authorities to predict and map emerging threats and facilitate better targeting of vaccines, mosquito control measures and public health messaging," she said.

"Congratulations to the researchers in our Mosquito Control Lab on this achievement."

Mosquito Control Lab's collaboration with CAG

Researchers in the Mosquito Control Laboratory consulted with CAG members when the project was designed and later pitched for NHMRC TCR funding (see story at left).

The group provided feedback on the impact of the proposed research and advised on who in the community would be effective partners for the project.

Researchers will keep the CAG updated as this research progresses and will seek ongoing input on how we can better educate the community on arboviruses.

Depression discovery brings fresh hope for melancholia

> “We know that standard ‘first-line’ treatments for depression may not always be as effective for those deeply affected by melancholia. If we can identify this type of depression more quickly and accurately, it will benefit not only patients, but their families and community, who may be devastated by the effects of treatment-resistant depression upon a loved one.”
>
> – DR PHILIP MOSLEY

QIMR Berghofer researchers have discovered how to diagnose a severe form of depression known as melancholia by analysing the facial expressions and brain activity of people as they watched highly emotional movies.

Melancholia is an intense form of depression. People affected cannot move their bodies or think quickly, and experience deep, long-lasting sadness. They are less likely to respond to psychological treatments and often need very high doses of medication or brain stimulation.

QIMR Berghofer lead researcher Dr Philip Mosley said an accurate and early diagnosis of melancholic depression is vital.

“The research will allow GPs and other clinicians to diagnose people with melancholic depression more quickly and accurately, having them well again and feeling connected to their loved ones sooner,” Dr Mosley said.

During the study, Dr Mosley and his team used Artificial Intelligence to analyse the facial expressions of 70 clinical trial participants with depression as they watched a funny movie. Participants then watched an emotional short film as their brain activity was measured in an MRI scanner.

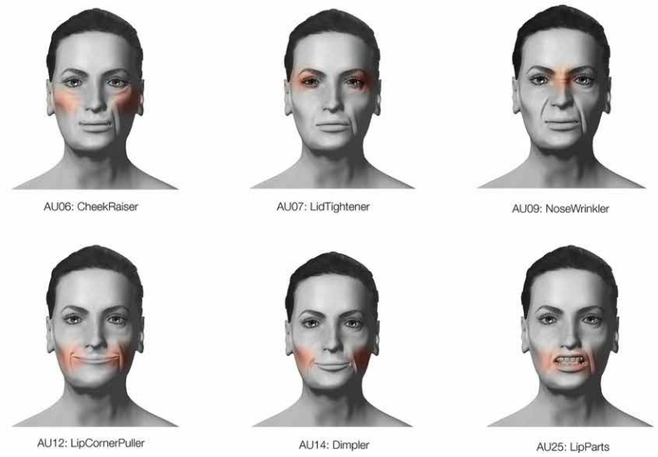
The findings showed clear differences between people with melancholia, and people with non-melancholic depression.

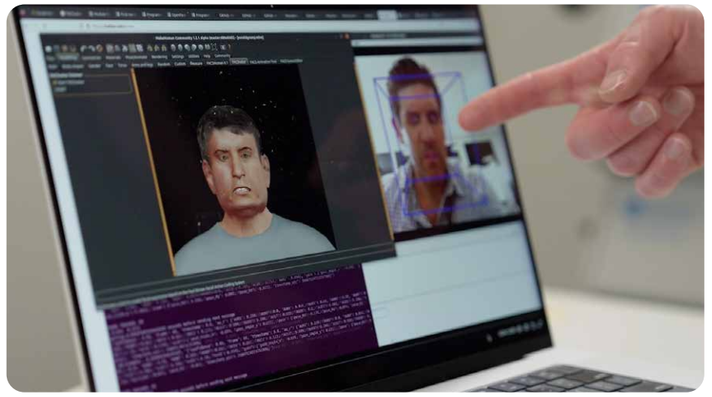
“People with melancholia looked flat, and didn’t smile during a funny video. This visible difference was confirmed mathematically when we did a comprehensive analysis of the movements of facial muscles involved in smiling,” Dr Mosley said.

“Furthermore, their brains responded differently during uplifting scenes in an emotional movie. In psychiatry, the difficulty in expressing and responding to positive emotions may be called ‘flattening’ or ‘blunting’. Here, it was as if the brain regions that we know are involved in registering and processing positive emotions were also flattened and blunted.”

Dr Mosley hoped the research would help doctors offer a more personalised treatment pathway.

“We know that standard ‘first-line’ treatments for depression may not always be as effective for those deeply affected by melancholia. If we can identify this type of depression more quickly and accurately, it will benefit not only patients, but their families and community, who may be devastated by the effects of treatment-resistant depression upon a loved one,” he said.





Faces of participants are scanned while watching movies and facial muscle results (above right) are used to differentiate forms of depression.

Beau (pictured above, right) was a research participant in Dr Mosley’s study looking at ways in which clinicians could more reliably identify melancholia in order to better inform treatment strategies.

> “To have effective treatment, you need to have an accurate diagnosis. (From participating in the research) I was able to get a firmer diagnosis from doctors about the kind of depression I have and the subset of depression.”
>
> – BEAU, STUDY PARTICIPANT

LISTEN

Find out more about Dr Philip Mosley’s research in this episode of our BodyLab podcast.

Body Lab is a monthly podcast, produced by QIMR Berghofer, highlighting the work of our researchers.

Click here to subscribe.

WATCH

Watch a video about this research.

Inspiring the next generation of medical researchers

Exposing high school students to different career paths and opportunities in science and medical research is rewarding work for QIMR Berghofer's Education Coordinators, Dr Liam St Pierre and Dr Manuel Serrano Santos.

Our Education Program is far reaching, from programs in a working laboratory alongside real scientists at the QIMR Berghofer buildings in Herston, to the remote far north of the Torres Strait, our Education team is committed to taking science to as many students across Queensland as possible.

Within our purpose-built Education Laboratory, hundreds of high school students each year are able to experience a day in the life of a scientist and see what a career in medical research could be like.

Throughout the year our Education Coordinators take cutting-edge science and medical research directly to high schools in rural, regional and remote areas of Queensland, to inspire and engage the next generation of scientists.

In February 2025, the program travelled to schools in Mackay and Mirani.

(L-R) Serena Gallozzi, Alan Moreira Henrique, Dr Manuel Serrano Santos, Dr Liam St Pierre travelled to the Mackay region to bring the QIMR Berghofer Education Lab to regional students.

(L) Students at Mirani State High School and (R) students at Pioneer State High School in science education classes run by QIMR Berghofer.

World Science Festival

The Education Lab opened up to visitors during the March World Science Festival. Science-curious participants threw on lab coats and were able to conduct real-world experiments about genetics and learn about the role DNA plays in research about disease development, treatment and prevention.

Click here to learn more about the Education Programs we offer.

Dr Manuel Serrano Santos with members of the public during the World Science Festival.

Clinical Trials and Research Studies

Clinical trials and research studies play an integral role in medical research and the impact it can have on the lives of millions around the world. Here are some of the studies currently underway and recruiting at QIMR Berghofer.

Australian Parkinson's Genetics Study

The Australian Parkinson's Genetics Study (APGS) is a nationwide research study run by QIMR Berghofer in Brisbane and funded by the Shake It Up Australia Foundation (SIUAF), and The Michael J. Fox Foundation (MJFF).

The APGS aims to recruit thousands of participants with and without Parkinson's disease, to help scientists crack the code of Parkinson's disease.

For more information about participating, please visit qimrb.edu.au/studies/apgs.

Living with Anxiety Study

The purpose of the Living with Anxiety Study (LwA Study) is to try and improve our understanding of the genetic and environmental factors that increase a person's risk of developing an anxiety disorder and also the genetic factors that influence how well, or poorly, a person responds to treatment.

For more information about participating, please visit livingwithanxiety.org.au.

Genetics of Pharmacoresistant Epilepsy (GenPhEp) Study

The purpose of the GenPhEp Study is to improve our understanding of why a person may fail to become (and stay) seizure-free with initial trials of anti-seizure medications.

The GenPhEp study aims to identify the genetic basis of why medications work for some people but not others, and why some medications cause side effects and others do not.

To do this, researchers are seeking adults who have a diagnosis of epilepsy or recurrent seizures to participate in our study.

For more information about participating, please visit geneticsofepilepsy.org.au.

For more information about current trials and studies, please visit www.qimrb.edu.au/studies.

Thank you

We are grateful to those in the community who support and fundraise for us.

We couldn't do it without you.

Thankuary 2025

The 10-14 February marked Thankuary week at QIMR Berghofer, a time when we reached out and said "Thanks a bunch" to our valued donors.

Throughout the week our staff and scientists signed thank you cards, called and personally visited many of our donors and supporters, and hosted a "Science at Sunset" experience in our Education Lab.

While we are grateful each and every day for the generosity of our donors, the annual Thankuary event is a special opportunity to connect and express our gratitude directly.

"Without your support, we couldn't do what we do. Your support is absolutely critical and helps us pursue breakthrough science and follow the discoveries to try and improve survival and impact patient care."

– PROFESSOR BRYAN DAY, SID FAITHFULL BRAIN CANCER LABORATORY

Community fundraisers at the 'Science at Sunset' Thankuary Event.

QIMR Berghofer staff handwriting and sending thank you cards to donors during Thankuary week.

Banding Together to Outsmart Cancer

Victory Church at Bridgeman Downs was filled with the sound of love in January as community members gathered to raise funds in memory of Scott Fixter, a beloved husband, police officer, and Brisbane Excelsior Band cornet player.

Scott lost his 4 ½ year battle with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia last year. His wife, Jaime, organised the Banding Together to Outsmart Cancer concert in memory and honour of Scott and to raise funds for vital cancer research at QIMR Berghofer.

Scott was the first participant in haematologist and Translational Cancer Immunotherapy group leader Dr Siok Tey's CAR T-cell therapy clinical trial. Scott and his family were grateful to have had the opportunity to participate in the ground-breaking trial.

At the concert, Dr Tey spoke warmly about Scott's courage and resilience and how his participation as the first on the trial paved the way for others who followed. She highlighted his good humour and said she had lost count of the number of times he had to explain the difference between a cornet and trumpet! Jaime, also a cornet player, delivered a touching cornet solo in honour of her husband.

Jaime surpassed her fundraising dream goal of $10,000, **raising more than $37,000** to directly support research at the Institute. We are deeply grateful for Jaime's support and pay tribute to Scott and his commitment to furthering medical research.

Jaime Fixter performs a cornet solo in honour of her husband Scott.

Dr Siok Tey (left) addresses the crowd.
Excelsior Band members (right) playing at the concert.

Calling for 'Trailblazers' to trek the Larapinta Trail for good

QIMR Berghofer is calling for people to join their 'Trailblazers' group and embark on an unforgettable journey along the iconic Larapinta Trail, all while raising funds for life-changing medical research.

This is more than just a trek. It's a journey of purpose, inspiration and hope for the future through science.

Guided by experts from *Inspired Adventures*, highlights will include trekking the spectacular West MacDonnell Ranges, Ormiston Gorge, Finke River, Mount Sonder and Glen Helen Gorge.

The Larapinta Trail, Northern Territory
27 July - 1 August 2025

Visit inspiredadventures.com.au/event/qimrberghofer-larapinta-2025 for more information.

Fundraise for medical research

Are you looking for a way to make a difference in medical research?
For more information about fundraising, visit qimrb.edu.au.

QIMR Berghofer

Where there's a Will... there's a way to change the future of health

Did you know QIMR Berghofer has a long history of gratefully receiving gifts in people's Wills? These special gifts are the gifts that keep on giving.

After ensuring their family is taken care of, many passionate donors want to make a meaningful gift to future-proof our lifesaving medical research.

Call us for a confidential chat

If you would like to have a confidential chat about how you can give the gift that keeps on giving, please get in touch with our friendly Gifts in Wills team.

Free Call: 1800 993 000

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or click here for more information

If you have already remembered QIMR Berghofer in your Will, please let us know so we can thank you and keep you up-to-date with the research that is important to you.