

Year in Review 2025



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QIMR Berghofer's Year in Review

Reflecting on a transformative year where our impact, reach and engagement shaped outcomes that truly mattered.

In 2025, we celebrated a milestone 80 years of QIMR Berghofer research. This remarkable journey has been defined by innovation, impact and the dedication of our researchers as well as the generosity of our supporters and donors.

From our beginnings in an army hut in Victoria Park / Barrambin we've grown into one of Australia's leading medical research institutes. Based in Brisbane's acclaimed Herston Health Precinct, QIMR Berghofer is home to more than 60 laboratories tackling the most urgent health challenges of our time, from cancer and brain and mental health, to infection, inflammation and population health.

Your support has enabled us to make remarkable progress in advancing research into Parkinson's disease, depression, glaucoma, cardiovascular disease and cancers including glioblastoma, breast cancer and bowel cancer. These breakthroughs are the result of our dedicated and talented scientists working collaboratively with clinical and research colleagues here in Queensland, across Australia and internationally. These have been made possible, in large part, thanks to the philanthropic support of our community. Your generosity propels early-stage projects, funds bold new ideas and accelerates life-saving discoveries that otherwise might never leave the lab.

Our facilities include Q-Gen Cell Therapeutics, one of Australia's largest and longest-running facilities for producing clinical-grade cell therapies. Q-Gen Cell Therapeutics manufactures cell therapies on site to treat virus-associated diseases and cancers. These therapies are often the last line of treatment for patients with hard-to-treat cancers.

We are proud to have launched our Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) during NAIDOC Week. The RAP outlines a strategic framework for guiding respectful, inclusive and sustained action to improve health equity, foster partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and translate research into impactful and ethical outcomes for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

We are sharing the outcomes of the 2024-25 financial year, while also celebrating remarkable achievements across the 2025 calendar year. Together with staff, scientists, donors and community, we have continued a legacy of impact that is reshaping the future of health.

Snapshot

From launching three major research centres to progressing breakthrough therapies and expanding our commercial reach, we’ve made significant strides across our four research programs.

We’re proud that the *Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act 2025* was passed. Replacing the original 1945 Act, the updated legislation strengthens governance, transparency and agility — enabling faster commercialisation of our discoveries and greater capacity to translate research into real health and economic benefits for all Queenslanders.

QIMR Berghofer established three new research centres

- **The National Centre for Spatial Tissue and AI Research (NCSTAR)** unites researchers across academia, healthcare, and industry to discover new drug targets and enhance clinical decisions through spatial biomarkers and AI.
- **The Centre for Tropical Health and Emerging Diseases** brings together researchers to develop evidence-based solutions to control and eliminate tropical diseases worsened by poverty and climate change.
- **The Australian Cancer Research Foundation Centre for Optimised Cancer Therapy** advances personalised cancer treatments using genomics, deep learning and real-time patient response data.

Clinical and commercial outcomes and achievements

- Completed Phase 1 trial recruitment for Cyteph’s off-the-shelf T cell therapy for aggressive brain cancer, developed by Professor Rajiv Khanna AO, with no adverse reactions reported in patients to date.
- A new immunotherapy targeting aggressive bowel and breast cancers from Associate Professor Michelle Wykes’s spin-out, Fovero Therapeutics, is with CSIRO for independent verification. She seeks \$20 million to move this promising treatment into clinical trials.
- QIMR Berghofer and Altea Investments launched Australia’s first, and the world’s third, Life Science Incubator hub, known as LSI@QIMR Berghofer.
- A world-first Phase I trial combining a new immunotherapy with brain cancer drug Paxalisib launched in January, led by Professor Sudha Rao and Kazia Therapeutics. By October, Kazia Therapeutics secured the license and committed to funding further trials. This breakthrough therapy hopes to treat patients with metastatic breast cancer that has spread to the brain.
- NeuroScientific Biopharmaceuticals licensed Q-Gen Cell Therapeutics’ StemSmart process to develop mesenchymal stromal stem cells for clinical trials. The cells are used to treat severe immune complications from bone marrow transplants, kidney and lung transplant rejection, and inflammatory Crohn’s disease.
- Our research helped develop a world-first blood test called PromarkerEso, which enables earlier detection of oesophageal cancer, easing invasive diagnosis for thousands.
- Professor Stuart MacGregor’s glaucoma genetic test, already in use across Australia, was successfully launched in the US market.
- QIMR Berghofer’s Q-Gen Cell Therapeutics partnered with Griffith University to assist the clinical manufacture of nasal stem cells used in a new trial to treat spinal cord injuries in paralysed patients.

Research programs

QIMR Berghofer’s four research programs drive transformative medical breakthroughs, improving patient outcomes regionally and globally.



Cancer Research

Our leading cancer researchers are developing new techniques, novel therapies and detection methods that will help us to understand, prevent, detect and treat cancer, a leading cause of death in Australia.



Infection and Inflammation

We’re tackling globally important diseases caused by viruses, bacteria and parasites, advancing treatments for chronic inflammation and infectious disease.



Brain and Mental Health

Half of all Australians experience mental health issues at some stage of their lives. Our research is focusing on understanding, finding the causes, developing treatments and working out how to prevent and support these conditions.



Population Health

Our epidemiology and health services researchers are leading state and national policy on the prevention of melanoma and skin cancer, use of vitamin D and sunscreen, and prevention and treatment of diabetes, liver and cardiac disease.



588
SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS



>50K
CITATIONS



NATURE INDEX
#2 AUS | #55 GLOBAL



1000
STAFF AND STUDENTS



103
PHD STUDENTS
FROM
23
COUNTRIES

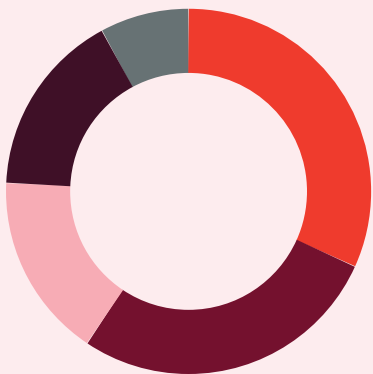


>60
RESEARCH LABS



PC3 FACILITY
PURPOSE BUILT HIGH
BIOSECURITY FACILITY

Funding sources



- Research grants \$37.2M
- Investment income \$32.2M
- Philanthropic revenue \$19.7M
- QLD Government grant \$18.9M
- Commercial and Contract Research \$9.1M

Research highlights

Our researchers are leading groundbreaking studies that are transforming the future of health. Through innovation, collaboration and a relentless pursuit of discovery, we're advancing the frontiers of medicine—transforming how we understand, prevent and treat disease to improve health outcomes across Queensland, Australia and around the world.



New insights into sunscreen and vitamin D

A landmark population health study by Professor Rachel Neale found that people who used SPF50+ sunscreen daily for about a year were more likely to be vitamin D deficient than those who used it less frequently. However, researchers are emphatic that this does not mean that people in that category should stop using sunscreen — they might simply need to take a vitamin D supplement.

Experimental drug to target aggressive brain cancer

Professor Bryan Day and Dr Yuchen (Michelle) Li's (pictured right) collaboration with Emory University in the US revealed a new targeted therapy for childhood brain cancer, and months later was approved for clinical trial.



A new way of treating depression

Associate Professor Luca Cocchi's groundbreaking clinical trial showed personalised transcranial magnetic stimulation for depression achieved a 52 per cent response rate and 33 per cent remission rate — markedly better than standard methods for the disorder.



Fresh hope for people with heart failure

Dr Lynn Devilee and the team in our Cardiac Bioengineering Lab team have discovered how carefully manipulating calcium influx can boost heart muscle cell regeneration, offering fresh hope for the 60 million people worldwide affected by heart failure.

Proof females carry a higher genetic risk for depression

A large-scale analysis of DNA by Drs Brittany Mitchell and Jodi Thomas revealed twice as many genetic 'flags' for depression in the DNA of females compared with males.

Hope for future heart disease treatments

Professor James Hudson and his team developed cardiac organoids that mimic adult human heart tissue in order to enable faster drug screening and the ability to model genetic heart diseases, to help achieve better treatments for heart conditions.



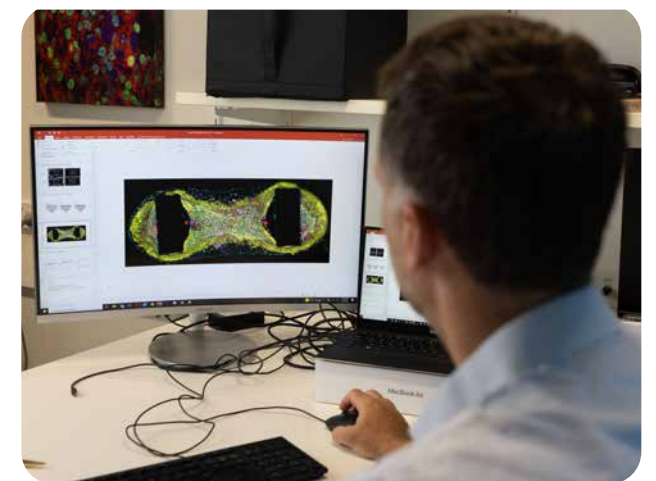
Paving the way for better treatment of OCD

Professor Eske Derks led the world's largest genetic study of obsessive-compulsive disorder, identifying 30 genomic regions linked to disease risk.



New guidelines to boost genetic cancer testing

Professor Mandy Spurdle led international genetic-testing guidelines to improve BRCA1/2 testing accuracy, reducing uncertain results by up to 85 per cent.



Celebrating 80 years of pioneering medical research in Queensland

Scientific Conference and Derrick Mackerras Memorial Lecture



We hosted our 80th Anniversary Scientific Conference at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre on 17 September. With more than 200 attendees, the event brought together leading minds across cancer, genetics, infectious diseases, mental health and population health to reflect on our legacy and look ahead to the future of medical research. The Derrick Mackerras Memorial Lecture was delivered by Professor Georgina Long AO, whose pioneering work in melanoma continues to change lives. This annual lecture honours the legacy of QIMR Berghofer's first directors, Dr Edward Derrick and Dr Ian Mackerras — true trailblazers in Queensland's scientific history.

Gala Dinner

On 1 November, more than 450 guests gathered to celebrate 80 years of transformative medical research with a black-tie Gala Dinner at Brisbane's Royal International Convention Centre. The evening was a moving tribute to our shared legacy—filled with stories of breakthrough discoveries, moving reflections, and the vibrant energy of a community united by purpose. Under the patronage of the Governor of Queensland and attended by the Queensland Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, who offered their support, and hosted by science communicator Bernie Hobbs, the Gala brought together supporters, scientists and staff to raise over \$1,000,000. Funds raised will go directly to drive vital work across cancer, infectious diseases and brain and mental health research to enable medical breakthroughs for the future.



Staff, Students and Alumni

We were thrilled to reconnect with more than 400 researchers, students and alumni at a relaxed picnic in Victoria Park / Barrambin — the place where our journey began in an old army hut. The event marked the official launch of the QIMR Berghofer Alumni Network, designed to foster continued connection, collaboration and support for our purpose. Whether you are a part of our early days or recent years, you remain an enduring part of our story.



Join our alumni network

Email us at alumni@qimrb.edu.au and join a growing network of alumni helping shape the future of health.

“I look back at the legacy of those early pioneers of medical research in Brisbane and marvel at their inquisitiveness. We stand on the shoulders of giants—People who have laid the groundwork and have done amazing discovery research.”

PROFESSOR GRANT RAMM, DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND CHIEF SCIENTIST



- 1) Heidi Hynd and donors at the Sunshine Coast Donor and Community Morning Tea, 1 July. 2) Professor Georgina Long AO address at the Derrick Mackerras Memorial Lecture, BCEC, 17 September. 3) Clive Berghofer AO and Naomi Price, 80th Anniversary Gala Dinner, 1 November. 4) Sunshine Coast Donor and Community Morning Tea, The Wharf Mooloolaba, 1 July. 5) Clive Berghofer AO celebrating his 90th Birthday, Cobb & Co Museum, Toowoomba, 3 April. 6) Professor Fabienne Mackay at Sunshine Coast Donor and Community Morning Tea, 1 July. 7) Professor Darren Gray at Townsville Donor and Community Morning Tea, Queensland Museum Tropics, 22 July. 8) Staff, Student and Alumni Picnic, Victoria Park/Barrambin, 6 June. 9) QIMR Berghofer Alumni, Victoria Park / Barrambin, 6 June. 10) Toowoomba Donor and Community Event, Cobb & Co Museum, 4 April.

QIMR Berghofer is proud to be a founding partner of Herston Health Precinct

Herston Health Precinct — a global leader in health innovation, education, research and clinical care, unites more than 30 facilities and 13,000 staff, scientists, clinicians, students and partners on a vibrant 20-hectare campus just three kilometres from Brisbane CBD.

This dynamic hub fosters collaboration across hospitals, research institutes, universities and startups to transform discoveries into real-world health solutions.

World-class facilities drive advancements in cancer, chronic disease, ageing and emerging infections through integrated care, cutting-edge research and rapid technology adoption.

The \$1.1 billion Herston Quarter redevelopment, including the new Queensland Cancer Centre, will expand state-of-the-art infrastructure, public spaces and heritage projects—cementing Herston as a premier biomedical and innovation precinct.

A strategic leader and facilitator in health innovation and life sciences precinct development, Dr Patrick Silvey was appointed

Director of the Precinct in September. Based at QIMR Berghofer, he is tasked with unlocking the extraordinary potential of one of Australia's most dynamic and integrated health and knowledge ecosystems.

Looking to the future, the proposed establishment of the Next Generation Australian Centre for Cell Therapy Manufacturing and Innovation (NextGen), a nationally significant cell therapy innovation and manufacturing centre, headquartered in the Herston Health Precinct, will help to build research resilience and enhance innovation and partnerships.

NextGen will be Queensland's first such centre, a fully-integrated piece of infrastructure that co-locates advanced cell therapy manufacturing, translational research, clinical care and workforce development and training. Enabling onsite production of personalised therapeutics, improving life-saving treatments for cancer, autoimmune disorders, and infectious and degenerative diseases.



“The opportunity ahead for the Herston Health Precinct is extraordinary – from groundbreaking research translation to next-generation infrastructure, and to inclusive and people-centred placemaking. As we approach the Brisbane 2032 Olympics, we are positioned to showcase Australia's health innovation leadership, talent and stories on the global stage.”

DR PATRICK SILVEY, HERSTON HEALTH PRECINCT DIRECTOR

New partnerships to boost regional health outcomes

QIMR Berghofer is committed to making significant health impacts throughout Queensland and in 2025 entered significant partnerships and strategic collaborations to help achieve this.

Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise

The partnership with Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprises will offer insights and solutions to regional industries and health services, leveraging its expertise to create region-specific health solutions and workforce training initiatives.

James Cook University

Combining QIMR Berghofer's strengths in translational health research with JCU's deep local expertise in tropical medicine will accelerate the development of innovative treatments, diagnostics and prevention strategies.

Townsville Hospital and Health Service

The partnership with Townsville Hospital and Health Service aims to accelerate health innovation, strengthen the STEM workforce and expand clinical trial access, driving regional transformation and improved health outcomes in North Queensland.

Sunshine Coast Health Institute and University of the Sunshine Coast

This trilateral partnership will advance medical research and strengthen professional connections between our organisations in an effort to enhance evidence-based healthcare.



1) QIMR Berghofer and Toowoomba Surat Basin Enterprise Partnership announcement, Cobb & Co Museum, Toowoomba, 3 April.
2) Professor Jenny Sneddon, Deputy Vice Chancellor Research, James Cook University and Professor Fabienne Mackay, Director and CEO, QIMR Berghofer, QIMR Berghofer and JCU Partnership signing, JCU Townsville, 21 July.
3) Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service and QIMR Berghofer Partnership, The Wharf Mooloolaba, 1 July.

Backing brilliant minds to secure Australia's research future

Our researchers are dedicated to solving the most pressing health challenges of our time: cancer, brain disorders, infectious disease and chronic illnesses that affect millions of Australians. But behind every breakthrough, there is a quiet struggle that too often goes unseen.

Unlike many professions, medical research does not offer salary security — many researchers have no guaranteed income or certainty about the future of their work beyond their current grant.

Our researchers must continually apply for competitive grants and external funding, not only to keep their research projects moving forward but to pay their own salaries and the salaries of their teams.

Without sustained funding, we risk losing highly skilled staff, along with the hard-won knowledge and momentum that are essential for breakthrough discoveries. Restarting teams after funding gaps is costly,

disruptive and slows the progress of research that is desperately needed.

Grants are highly competitive and even brilliant research can be unsuccessful in attracting grant funding.

This is where philanthropy plays a unique and vital role: by giving researchers the freedom to pursue bold ideas that have the power to change the future of health.

We also know that the playing field has not been equal.

Female researchers, despite their extraordinary contributions, face additional hurdles in securing competitive funding. The sector is only now beginning to recognise and address these barriers. By investing in research at QIMR Berghofer, donors can help level that field and ensure that brilliant women have the same opportunities to lead the scientific breakthroughs of tomorrow.

Why your support matters

Your generosity provides more than just dollars. It provides stability, freedom and hope. With your support, we can:

- Retain and nurture world-class researchers and their teams
- Protect critical knowledge and momentum that would otherwise be lost
- Empower researchers to pursue bold, innovative projects that traditional funding overlooks
- Support clinician scientists balancing patient care with life-saving discoveries
- Create a more equitable future for women in science

Your support means our researchers can focus on what they do best — transforming lives through medical research.



Scan the QR Code to donate today.

Advancing discoveries to stop leukaemia coming back

Professor Steven Lane, Dr Megan Bywayter and the Leukaemia Research Laboratory team have made groundbreaking discoveries in blood cancer research, bringing new hope to patients with acute myelogenous leukaemia (AML).

Professor Lane's team is unravelling how the immune system controls AML and why different subtypes of leukaemia respond in different ways.

In a major breakthrough, the team discovered leukaemia stem cells are key to driving

relapse. They also discovered that by combining two drugs, they could block these cells and help stop the cancer from returning.

Thanks to philanthropic support, the team is also investigating how leukaemia cells evade the body's immune defences and are working on new ways to unmask the cancer, including after bone marrow transplantation.



Every gift is helping researchers target the toughest cancer cells and develop smarter treatments. Scan the QR code to support blood cancer research at QIMR Berghofer.



“We are really excited about the potential for these discoveries to transform leukaemia treatment, but there's still much more to do. I'm grateful for the amazing support from our donors including the Herron, Bosso, Gilmour and Dimmick families. We are committed to taking the next vital steps to bring these breakthroughs to patients.”

PROFESSOR STEVEN LANE, LEUKAEMIA RESEARCH LABORATORY GROUP LEADER

Thank you for helping to *clear the air*

“To protect our firefighters now and into the future, we must understand how bushfire smoke impacts their brain health. I’m deeply thankful to the donors who have already donated towards this vital work, and sincerely grateful to anyone who may consider supporting us in the future.”

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MICHELLE LUPTON, NEUROGENETICS AND DEMENTIA RESEARCH GROUP TEAM HEAD



There’s a unique spirit of generosity and volunteering in small communities across Australia. It shines through in people like Graham and Geraldine (Gel), who left the city 35 years ago in search of a quieter life to raise their family. The couple devoted decades of their lives to volunteering as rural firefighters. For them, it wasn’t extraordinary. As they say, it’s just what you do when you are a part of a community. You help each other.

But helping others can come at a cost.

Emerging evidence shows that bushfire smoke exposure may increase the risk of neurodegenerative diseases like dementia and brain inflammation. Right now, more research is urgently needed to

Graham and Gel,
volunteer rural firefighters.

understand these impacts and protect the people who risk their lives to protect us.

That’s why Associate Professor Michelle Lupton and her team are leading an unprecedented study of rural firefighters who face long-term exposure to bushfire smoke to determine how it affects their brains.

With your generosity, over \$100,000 has already been raised to accelerate Associate Professor’s Lupton’s work, but we need your continued support to progress this research into dementia.



To read more about this research and to donate scan the QR code.

The Josephine Circle A sisterhood of purpose

Women in medical research continue to face significant hurdles in getting their work funded, compared with their male colleagues. This contributes to the loss of women from the sector and impacts their contributions to Australia’s research and innovation future. Without philanthropic support, talented women in their early and mid-careers may be stuck in a funding limbo that could ultimately end their research – years of work that could have been the next big breakthrough.

To help close this gender funding gap, a small group of visionary women leaders came together to launch The Josephine Circle, to ensure women at QIMR Berghofer receive the support and recognition they deserve. The generosity and vision of our

founding members — Maureen, Barbara, Gwen, Jane, and Robyn — is not only changing the funding landscape, it’s changing lives.

Named after pioneering QIMR Berghofer zoologist, entomologist and parasitologist Dr Josephine Mackerras, The Josephine Circle brings philanthropic women and allies together to amplify their impact and level the playing field for brilliant women in medical research.

The Josephine Circle is creating impact by backing women in research through transformative grants, fuelling discoveries and paving the way for future generations.

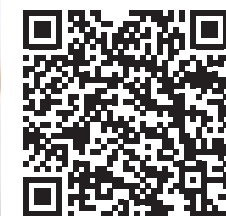
Help us grow The Josephine Circle. Enquire about becoming a member by scanning the QR code below.



Founding members (L to R):
Barbara, Jane, Robyn, Maureen and
Gwen (absent).

“My dad had died from cancer and my mother-in-law from motor neuron disease, so that’s how my husband and I got into supporting medical research. When I got breast cancer, I started donating to improve breast cancer research.”

MAUREEN, FOUNDING MEMBER



Scan the QR code to learn more about The Josephine Circle or visit:
www.qimrb.edu.au/support-us/the-josephine-circle



A gift of hope for the future

We reflect on the extraordinary impact of those who entrusted us with their legacy over the past 80 years. Medical research is always evolving and the full impact of research today will be felt in generations to come.

In the last financial year we received \$10,734,300 from Gifts in Wills. This is a substantial portion of the overall funding to support our medical research programs. We are extremely grateful to all those who chose to make QIMR Berghofer a part of their legacy and believe in the work and impact of our research.

A few of the many recent achievements supported through legacy gifts are:

- World-first clinical trial to test combination therapy for breast cancer
- Brain cancer study for adults and children
- Melanoma risk calculator
- Bushfire smoke impact on dementia
- Research into heart disease
- Research into Parkinson's disease

We would like to sincerely thank the families and friends of those who have left QIMR Berghofer a gift in their Will. These generous people have provided a lasting legacy of hope for a healthier future.

To have a confidential discussion regarding your legacy please contact our Gifts in Wills Specialist, Lorraine Fraser.

P: 0408 722 877
E: Lorraine.Fraser@qimrb.edu.au



“We believe that with the help of our legacy contribution, it will shape the future medical development of Queensland.

We have benefited from medical research and feel strongly about investing in health and promoting the science and research that QIMR Berghofer provide to Queenslanders.”

BARBARA AND GRAEME

Community fundraisers prove strength in numbers

This year, our vibrant community of supporters came together in extraordinary ways, raising nearly \$250,000 through events, concerts, clubs, and local initiatives. Each effort, large or small, has contributed to advancing life-saving medical research at QIMR Berghofer.

Jaime Fixter, whose late husband Scott battled acute lymphoblastic leukaemia for four and a half years and was the first participant in Dr Siok Tey's CAR T cell therapy clinical trial is one example.

Dr Tey's laboratory is developing gene-modified T cells, known as CAR T cells, which can be custom-engineered to recognise and kill cancer cells that have evaded conventional treatments.

By establishing in-house manufacturing of these therapies in Brisbane, her team is working to make cutting-edge immunotherapy better and more accessible for Australian patients.

Honouring Scott's memory and his love for music, Jaime organised Banding Together to Outsmart Cancer, a musical concert attracting more than 300 attendees and raising over \$37,000. All proceeds from this event went to Dr Tey's pioneering work in blood cancer research. Jaime's generosity, courage and community spirit will support many patients and families.

Members of Queensland Lions Clubs showed up in their hundreds to collectively raise over \$25,000. Their contributions

will support research across several urgent areas including brain cancer, melanoma, ovarian cancer and pancreatic cancer. For many years, Lions Clubs and charitable foundation Hand Heart Pocket have stood beside our researchers, embodying the spirit of service and community action.

Together, these community champions are making a tangible difference. Every run, cake stall, concert, craft session or social gathering adds up to something profound — hope, progress and discoveries that can save lives.

Thank you to all of our community fundraisers. Your dedication and generosity powers medical research and bring us closer to a healthier future for everyone.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to many other groups who rallied to support QIMR Berghofer this year. Each of these organisations gave more than \$1,000:

- Forest Lake Crochet and Knitting Club
- Hand Heart Pocket
- Willow Glen Retirement Community
- St Luke's Lutheran Church
- Keperra Sanctuary Retirement Village
- Let's Find a Cure Foundation
- Rockhampton Grammar School
- Breast Friends
- Redcliffe Social Dance Club
- Brisbane Excelsior Band
- Buck Off Melanoma
- Southern Cross Retirement Village Caloundra Craft Group

Join a community of passionate people who fundraise their own way and make a difference to the medical research area that matters to them.



1) Dr Siok Tey speaking at the Banding Together to Outsmart Cancer fundraising event. 2) Excelsior Band members playing at the event.

Emergency support unlocks life-saving discoveries



One (anonymous) foundation's incredible act of generosity, providing \$100,000 in emergency funding, has ensured Professor Mandy Spurdle's Molecular Cancer Epidemiology Laboratory could continue its vital work in developing tools to predict the genetic risk of aggressive cancers.

Professor Spurdle's work is used in clinics across the world and is focused on:

- Creating new guidelines that make genetic testing for cancer much more accurate. This means far fewer people now receive 'uncertain' results that leave them in limbo.
- Reviewing 755 genetic test results that were previously unclear. More than half turned out to be linked to cancer risk, giving doctors and families important information they didn't have before.
- Sharing discoveries so patients across the world can benefit from earlier, more accurate diagnoses and better treatment options.

“This foundation's emergency support meant we didn't lose precious time researching diagnostics — time that saves lives.”

PROFESSOR MANDY SPURDLE,
MOLECULAR CANCER
EPIDEMIOLOGY LABORATORY
SENIOR GROUP LEADER

This foundation's swift and generous response to an urgent need transformed what could have been a setback in a year of great progress and discovery.

If you would like to help researchers like Mandy scan here to make a gift today.



Your support is changing the race against melanoma

Thanks to the kindness of our donors, medical research is rapidly advancing and making a difference for people like Dan.

When melanoma returned five years after his initial diagnosis, Dan and his wife Emma (*pictured below*) were blindsided. It had spread to Dan's brain, lungs and lymph nodes. Within weeks, he underwent two emergency

brain surgeries. Then came radiation, immunotherapy and targeted drug combinations. It has been a tough journey for Dan and his family.

Dan's story inspired almost \$700,000 in donations from our supporters, helping researchers detect diseases like melanoma earlier, develop better treatments and give families like Dan's more time together and more hope for the future.



Scan the QR code to support researchers like Professor David Whiteman AM and give more hope to families like Dan's.



“When melanoma comes back, it spreads with terrifying speed. That's why early detection and better treatments are essential. Thanks to decades of research, we now have options we didn't dream of years ago.”

PROFESSOR DAVID WHITEMAN AM,
HEAD OF THE CANCER CONTROL
GROUP

Know your own risk

Next-gen melanoma risk prediction calculator helps Australians act against deadly skin cancer

Professor David Whiteman AM and Dr Catherine Olsen have created an innovative online calculator that helps people understand their personal risk of developing melanoma.

The calculator is powered by the world's largest skin cancer study, involving more than

40,000 people. It calculates risk using 16 factors including age, sex, height, tanning tendency, number of moles, history of burning and hair colour. The calculator turns decades of research into an easy-to-use resource, helping people take action early, when melanoma is most treatable.

Take the quiz and find out your risk by scanning the QR code below.



A gift in memory

Giving hope to people living with autoimmune disease

From a rural property in Queensland's Central Highlands cattle country, grazier Sue recently made a remarkable donation of \$250,000 to QIMR Berghofer. This powerful act of generosity was in memory of her beloved husband John, who passed away in 2024 after living with the autoimmune condition scleroderma.

Sue and John's journey with us began many years ago through their local Rotary Club. Over time, their support became a personal commitment. Through this transformative donation, Sue is helping to ensure that research into autoimmune disease will continue to move forward.

Every breakthrough begins with people who believe in the power of science to change lives. Thanks to the generosity of donors like Sue, our researchers are pioneering new immunotherapy approaches that do more than ease

symptoms, they aim to correct the cause of disease itself.

Under the leadership of world-class scientists such as Dr Siok Tey and Associate Professor Severine Navarro, QIMR Berghofer is developing advanced cellular and immune therapies that retrain the body's immune system to function as it should. From treating autoimmune conditions like lupus, type 1 diabetes and rheumatoid arthritis, to preventing allergies and asthma in children, this research is unlocking new possibilities for lifelong health.

Thank you to Sue and her family for providing hope for a future free from chronic autoimmune disease. Through this incredible gift, Sue not only honours John's memory but also helps bring us closer to new therapies that could transform lives.



“John longed for the day when no one else had to suffer this dreadful disease.”

SUE E.

If you would like to make a gift in memory of a loved one please reach out to our team: supportus@qimrb.edu.au



Sue and John's grandkids.

A legacy of love

Keeping a promise to medical research



Ian and Patricia McBain.

We were deeply moved when Ian McBain made a special gift in honour of his late wife, Patricia. Together, Ian and Patricia shared a lifelong admiration for medical research and a desire to make a lasting difference.

Before Patricia's passing, the couple had planned to make a contribution to support the work of our scientists — a vision that Ian fulfilled, and then amplified. Surrounded by memories of his beloved wife and with his daughter Allison by his side, Ian made the remarkable decision to double their intended gift to \$200,000.

Sadly, Ian passed away only a few weeks later. Yet through this extraordinary act of generosity, Ian and Patricia's

legacy will live on. Their gift will directly fund vital research, helping our scientists accelerate discoveries that lead to better treatments and brighter futures for patients. Through this extraordinary act of philanthropy, Ian and Patricia's legacy will help advance breakthroughs in medical research and give hope to patients and families in Queensland and across the world.

The McBain family's enduring commitment, spanning children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, reflects a powerful belief in science and compassion. Their generosity will continue to change lives for years to come.

“It resonated deeply with us and we agreed, this is who we should be supporting.”

DENICE AND BRUCE, DONORS

Long-time LifeLab subscribers Denice and Bruce saw Ian and Patricia's story and were inspired to give a significant gift of their own.

A year of gratitude

Our supporters are at the heart of every discovery—and in 2025, we honoured that generosity through a series of heartfelt celebrations, thank you moments and meaningful connections.

Thankuary

We hosted our annual Thankuary event in February, dedicated to recognising and celebrating our incredible donor community. From more than 1,500 handwritten postcards and workplace gift packs, to surprise sunflower deliveries and personal thank-you calls (including 517 calls from staff and our Director and CEO, Professor Fabienne Mackay), every gesture was about making our gratitude felt. A highlight was our Science at Sunset event, where donors, fundraisers and corporate partners experienced our research up close in the Education Lab. Thankuary is more than a tradition—it's our way of saying: "You help make this possible."

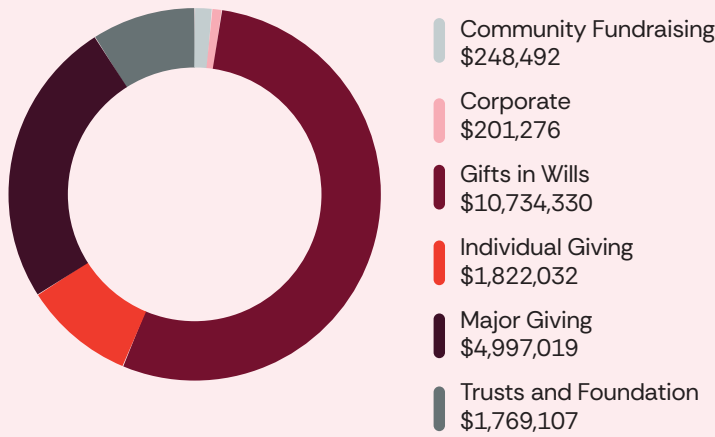


1) Staff on the phone to donors, thanking them personally, posting gifts as part of Thankuary. 2) Science at Sunset in our Education Lab. 3) Staff posting handwritten letters of thanks to donors.

The Power of Philanthropy

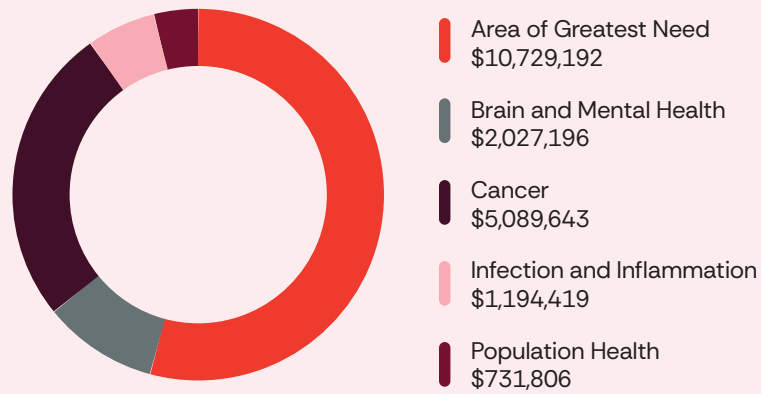
Philanthropic support from our donor community during the 2024-25 financial year has provided vital funding to drive discovery and innovation.

Together, these contributions fuel the research that saves lives, sustains our scientists and ensures that Queensland remains at the forefront of world-class medical research. We are deeply grateful to everyone who has chosen to stand with us in advancing better health for all.



Allocation of funds

Many donors chose to give to our Area of Greatest Need, which provides essential flexibility to fund innovative projects that may not receive support elsewhere. These gifts enable our scientists to pursue bold ideas, invest in emerging talent and respond quickly to urgent health issues. Together, this generosity keeps us at the forefront of discovery, transforming research into real-world health impact for people across Queensland and the world.



Bancroft Society High Tea

In October, we hosted members of the Bancroft Society at our much-loved High Tea (pictured above). At the High Tea, guests heard from Professor Stuart MacGregor, who has developed a world-first genetic test to predict glaucoma risk, and Dr Siok Tey, whose pioneering immunotherapy is giving hope to patients with life-threatening blood cancers.

Thanks for Giving

In November, we welcomed donors to our annual Thanks for Giving event, where donors placed their plaques on our Wall of Appreciation. For returning supporters, it has become a cherished tradition and a chance to reconnect and reflect. For first-time attendees, it marked a meaningful moment of joining a community bound by shared purpose and commitment to advance medical research.



“The Wall of Appreciation is not just a collection of plaques. It is a daily reminder of your generosity and the impact it has on every discovery we make.”

PROFESSOR FABIENNE MACKAY,
DIRECTOR AND CEO

Building stronger connections

QIMR Berghofer's Reflect RAP

We are honoured to have worked with the late Leah Cummins, a proud Mayi-Kulan and Kalkadoon woman, to create our inspirational Reconciliation Action Plan artwork, 'A Journey of Healing, Growth and Discovery'.

During NAIDOC week in July, staff were presented with

QIMR Berghofer's Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), before it was officially launched in August.

The RAP sets a strategic framework guiding QIMR Berghofer's commitment to respectful, inclusive and sustained action to improve health equity, foster

partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, and translate research into impactful, ethical outcomes.

This beautiful artwork is currently on display in our Central foyer and will be a lasting tribute to Leah and her legacy.



The artwork's central figure symbolises individuals supported by staff and community, surrounded by eight pillars representing our eight decades of dedication to advancing research across values like respect, integrity, and excellence.

Breast cancer survivors' insights help researchers

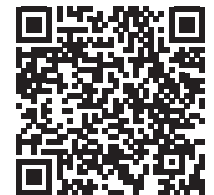
Consumer engagement is a vital part of medical research, ensuring that the voices of patients and the community help shape research priorities, improve study design and ultimately lead to outcomes that are more relevant, effective and impactful in real-world settings.

Recent international research revealed that bacteria can reside within breast cancer cells, and that both the quantity and type of these bacteria may significantly influence how a patient's cancer responds to treatment. Building on this discovery, Dr Nils Halberg (pictured right) wants to investigate how the bacteria

enter cancer cells and whether they contribute to cancer progression or potentially play a protective role.

In designing this project, Dr Halberg is partnering closely with our Breast Cancer Consumer Panel, a group of women from the community with lived experience of breast cancer. Their ongoing input will inform the research direction and shape how the findings are communicated back to the breast cancer community.

You too can partner with us and help influence our research – become a health consumer partner.



Sign up to our Better Health Together program today and work with us to realise

a world of better health and wellbeing through impactful medical research.



"I am using my lived cancer experience and working closely with researchers to make treatments more targeted and kinder. I feel a strong pull to support Dr Olga's research to make my drugs work for longer before I develop resistance."

MERRAN WILLIAMS,
HEALTH CONSUMER PARTNER

Better Health Together

Contribute your voice, ideas and skills to the research process

At some point in your life, you have been a 'health consumer' – you may have lived experience of a medical condition or disease, or have had the need to use health and medical services. This is incredibly valuable to our work. As a health consumer partner, you can help our researchers better understand the needs of patients, have influence on project directions and

help us to interpret and share study findings better with the community.

Merran Williams (left) partners with Dr Olga Kondrashova and the Molecular Oncology Laboratory team, sharing her experience accessing life-saving PARP inhibitors, which have contributed significantly to her survivorship journey.

Left: The Molecular Oncology Laboratory team and Merran Williams hosting a fundraising bake sale, 28 October (L-R Rebecca Johnston, Lijun Xu, Emma Todman, Brett Liddell, Merran Williams, Dr Olga Kondrashova, Dr Jacinta Simmons, Binny Jaradi).

Bringing science to life for communities across Queensland

In 2025, QIMR Berghofer's Community Engagement and Events program connected thousands of Queenslanders with life-changing medical research through a diverse calendar of networking events, presentations, education programs and community tours.

The annual International Women's Day address was delivered this year by Professor Fiona Wood AO, renowned plastic surgeon and world-leading burns specialist.

More than 200 members of the public gained a rare glimpse inside the Institute through sold-out sessions at the World Science Festival and Brisbane Open House, both of which showcased our cutting-edge science and laboratories. Our presence at the Ekka was another major success, reaching audiences as part of the event's record attendance of more than 425,000 visitors — the largest crowd in almost two decades.

Across the year, more than 60 community tours and speaking engagements gave more than 2,000 Queenslanders the opportunity to learn about our history, hear about breakthrough discoveries and experience the Institute's working laboratories.

Inspiring the next generation of scientists remained a key focus. Our Education Program welcomed more than 1,300 students from 50 schools to our purpose-built Education Lab, where students explored real-world science and research careers through hands-on activities. The Regional Outreach Program extended this impact across Queensland, reaching more than 250 students in rural and remote areas including Gladstone, Mackay, Bundaberg, Weipa, Townsville and Charters Towers, inspiring young people to explore careers in science and medical research. Aligned with our commitment to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities, the program focuses on regional and remote areas where access to similar initiatives is limited.

>5,000
engaged individuals
from our communities

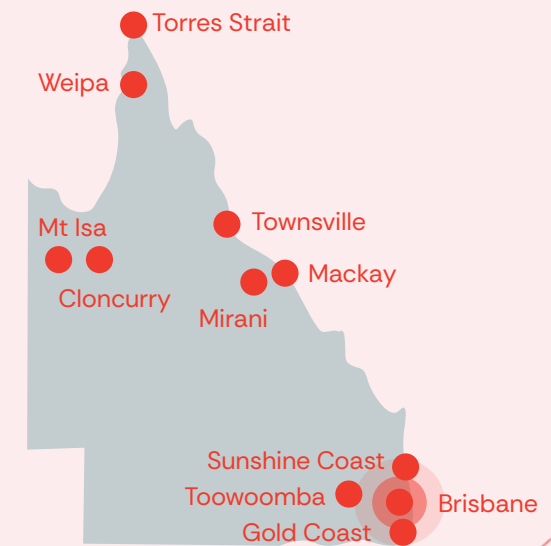
160
consumers in our
network

>60
tours and speaking
engagements

>3,000 attendees across
23 events

>1,500 students from
65 schools across Queensland

240 students from
11 regional schools



1) World Science Festival Lab Experience, 22 March. 2) Women in Biotech lab tour, 24 July. 3) Health Research Consumer EXPO, Translational Research Institute, 26 August. 4) Professor Murat Yucel at the Gold Coast Donor and Community Event, HOTA, 17 June. 5) Western Cape College Students with Dr Manuel Serrano Santos, Far North Queensland Regional Education Trip, 8 May. 6) Donors at Gold Coast Donor and Community Event, HOTA, 17 June. 7) Alvina Motton and Lily Daniels, Western Cape College, Far North Queensland Regional Education Trip, 8 May. 8) Sunshine Coast Donor and Community Event, the Wharf Mooloolaba, 1 July. 9) Dr Nancy Cloake, Mental Health Consumer Information session, Mount Isa, 8 May.

80th Anniversary Gala Dinner

On 1 November 2025, 80 years to the day since the *Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR) Act 1945* was signed in Parliament, we marked the state’s proud contribution to global medical research with a fundraising Gala Dinner. Held at the Royal International Convention Centre, the event brought together leaders from science, government, philanthropy and industry.

Hosted by science writer and presenter Bernie Hobbs, the evening traced our journey from humble beginnings in a World War II army hut to our position today as a world-class research institute. More than 450 guests heard from Queensland Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, the Honourable Tim Nicholls MP, QIMR Council Chair Professor Arun Sharma AM and Her Excellency, the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland.

Her Excellency spoke of her admiration for “the ground-breaking work being done” by QIMR Berghofer, the benefits of which she said travelled far beyond Queensland’s borders.

The evening wasn’t just a celebration — thanks to the generous support from attendees, partners and supporters we raised over \$1,000,000. These funds will go directly to vital work across cancer, infectious diseases, brain and mental health research to enable medical breakthroughs for the future.

Thank you to all of our sponsors, supporters and guests for making this milestone Gala Dinner so memorable and for joining us in honouring our history and helping fuel the next generation of medical research and innovation.



1) MC Bernie Hobbs. 2) Professor Fabienne Mackay, Director and CEO. 3 and 6) The Little Red Company performing. 4) Professor Arun Sharma AM, QIMR Berghofer Council Chair. 5) Her Excellency, the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland. 7) Queensland Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, the Honourable Tim Nicholls MP. 8) Clive Berghofer AO with entertainment host Naomi Price.

My Donation

I would like to donate: \$

☐ Make this a monthly donation

My details

☐ Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Miss ☐ Ms ☐ Dr ☐ Other

Name

Address

Suburb Postcode

Phone

Email

Payment method

Please debit my: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Name

Card no.

Exp. date /

Signature

OR

☐ Money order OR ☐ Cheque (payable to QIMR Berghofer)

Donations of \$2.00 or more are tax-deductible and we will mail/email you a receipt.

QIMR Berghofer is committed to protecting your privacy in compliance with the Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld). We are collecting your information for the purpose of fundraising and related promotional activities. We will retain your personal information for the purpose of keeping you informed and/or involved in QIMR Berghofer research, events and appeals which may be of interest to you. We may share your information with our third-party service providers, consultants and contractors. For more information, please see our Privacy Policy: qimrb.edu.au/privacy-policy/ or contact our Privacy Officer on (07) 3362 0222.

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Scan the QR code, or visit qimrb.edu.au

Phone
Free call: 1800 993 000
Monday to Friday, 8:30am–4:00pm AEST

Direct Deposit
BSB: 034 071 (Westpac) Account number: 000476
Account name: QIMR Berghofer Donations
Reference: (Surname & initials or Donor ID)



Inspire others with your story

At QIMR Berghofer, every story matters. Whether you’ve donated, taken part in a clinical trial, or even worked here in years past, your experience helps shape who we are today.

We’re inviting you to share what inspires you:

- What motivated you to donate?
- Have you or your family been touched by medical research?
- Did you participate in a clinical trial that gave you hope?
- Were you once part of the QIMR Berghofer team?

Your story can encourage others to get involved and show the impact of medical research in real lives. Together, these stories build a legacy of generosity, discovery and hope.

If you’d like to share your story, we’d be honoured to listen. Please email enquiries@qimrb.edu.au

