

The Wesley Research Institute Fact Sheet

About the Institute

- The Wesley Research Institute is a not-for-profit, independent medical research facility based at The Wesley Hospital
- The Institute provides scientific, administrative and financial support for research programs into improved patient care
- Our research is conducted by clinical staff at one of the six Uniting HealthCare hospitals in Queensland
- The research is carried out in our research and administration centre; at Uniting HealthCare hospitals; or in the labs of a partner institution such as Queensland Institute of Medical Research, Queensland University of Technology and the University of Queensland
- The Institute's researchers come from a range of backgrounds including doctors (surgeons, gynaecologists, oncologists, radiologists etc), nurses, physiotherapists, nutritionists, scientists and biomedical engineers
- Research projects focus on diagnostic imaging, breast cancer, prostate cancer, bone and tissue healing, obesity, brain and nervous systems, respiratory medicine, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and gynaecology
- The Institute is currently conducting 24 medical research projects. During the last six months it has received applications for a further 27 projects in areas of cancer, cardiovascular, diagnostic imaging, gynaecology, neurology, nutrition and diabetes

Clinical Trials

- Clinical Trials are the formal, scientific testing of new medical treatments coordinated by health professionals, such as doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals (physiotherapists, radiographers etc)
- The Wesley Research Institute is currently trialling ten innovative treatments, devices and medicines to determine their safety and effectiveness before they are available on the market
- The Institute's new state-of-the-art Clinical Research Centre will allow its Clinical Trials team to increase the scope and number of trials performed

Tissue Bank

- The Institute's Tissue Bank will store cancer (or tumour) specimens and matching blood samples from hospitals throughout Brisbane for use in researching the origin and progression of different cancers

Approved researchers from anywhere in the world will be able to access:

- Tissue images such as slides and micro arrays
- Information and data about the tissue
- Samples of tissue and matching blood for their own research
- The Institute's Tissue Bank it will be the largest facility of its kind in Queensland and the state's first purpose-built tissue bank

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Centre for Clinical Research Excellence

- 46 per cent of all patient admissions in Queensland occur in private hospitals (Australia Hospital Statistics website)
- To be completed by 2009, this Centre will be a world-class research facility dedicated to clinical and applied research
- The Centre will offer a comprehensive range of resources and facilities including laboratories and equipment to bring researchers and scientists together to first make important scientific discoveries and turn these findings into improvements to health care practice for patients

Uniting HealthCare

The Wesley Research Institute is part of the Uniting HealthCare group, one of the largest not-for-profit private hospital groups in Australia with more than 1,000 licensed hospital beds across five facilities:

- The Wesley Hospital, Brisbane
- St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital, Brisbane
- Sunshine Coast Private Hospital, Buderim
- St Stephen's Hospital, Maryborough
- St Stephen's Hospital, Hervey Bay

Uniting HealthCare operates under UnitingCare. Other members of the UnitingCare, service groups are Blue Care, Lifeline Community Care, Centre for Social Justice and Crossroads

Fast facts

- The Institute started in 1994 and has funded a total of 75 major research projects
- Uniting HealthCare hospitals in Queensland
 - Provide 1,032 licensed hospital beds
 - Employ 3, 520 staff
 - Perform 63,000 surgical procedures per year
- In the past 24 months, the Institute has received:
 - \$10M from The Queensland Government to build the Centre for Clinical Research Excellence
 - \$1.42M grant from The Queensland Government to build the Tissue Bank
 - \$800, 000 grant from The Queensland Government to fit out the Clinical Trials Centre
 - \$10M grant from The Atlantic Philanthropies