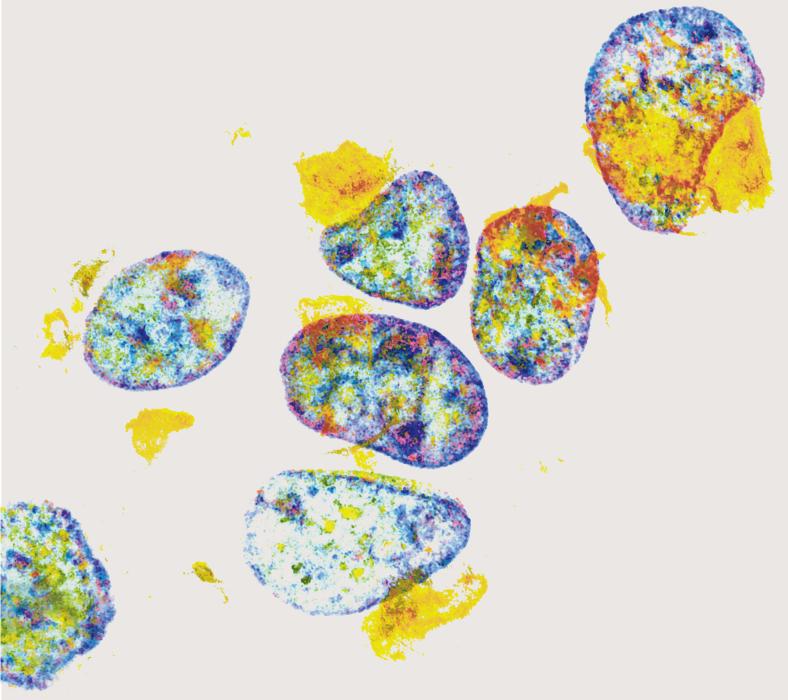
**Queensland Brain Institute** 



# QBI Brain Research Endowment Fund Prospectus

### An Endowment Fund Creating Impact



### Our Vision

To improve lives through a deeper understanding of the brain in health and disease.

#### Our Mission

To unlock the mysteries of the brain to generate new knowledge, understand learning and memory, and develop new technologies to improve lives, and diagnose and treat brain disease and mental health.

### Our Values

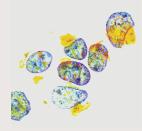
Our work will be guided and informed by our beliefs and commitments to:

**Inclusiveness** - we respect people, value diversity and are committed to equality.

**Quality** - we strive for excellence through continuous improvement.

**Openness** - we are committed to a culture of teamwork and collaboration.

Boldness - we do things differently.



On the cover:

Tau protein (gold) in toxic clusters. Image captured by scientists undertaking fundamental research at QBI.

### QBI Advisory Board



Jeff Maclean, Advisory Board Chair CEO, Index Group



**Dr Eamonn Eeles** Research Council Chair, The Prince Charles Hospital



Dr Sallyanne Atkinson AO Former Lord Mayor of Brisbane



Professor Aidan Byrne Provost and Senior Vice-President, UQ



Lady Edwards AM Chevalier (Fr) Executive Chairman and Founder, BBS Communications Group



Professor Alastair McEwan Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research Training), UQ



**Beverley Trivett** Director, Cure Brain Cancer Foundation



Dr David Merson Founder and Former CEO, Mincom Limited



Médy Hassan OAM

Founder and Managing

Director, Haus Holdings

**Simon Rogers** Investment Adviser, Crestone Wealth Management



Bruce Humphrys Managing Partner, HopgoodGanim Lawyers

Professor Pankaj Sah Director QBI



It is a privilege to perform the role of Chair at QBI and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board for their guidance, which helps drive the success of the Institute. Also, a thank you to our supporters whose generosity is often overwhelming.

QBI's primary focus is on asking the big, fundamental, curiosity-driven questions. From discussions with the QBI team, I understand that finding ways to fix brain disease alone is not the answer—you can't repair a damaged brain unless you firstly know how it works and the root of the problem. This research needs investment and time, and the best people in the right environment.

We need to take a big picture view on how science can find solutions for the major health problems facing society today, and ensure that we remain at the forefront in developing future solutions and treatments.

QBI's world-class research means paradigm-shifting innovations are always on the horizon. Breakthrough discoveries including QBI's ultrasound discovery to treat Alzheimer's Disease and the current EphA4 clinical safety trial developing a potential treatment for MND, are only two examples of how fundamental research is leading to solutions that will improve lives.

The Brain Research Endowment Fund will help create impact and secure a future for fundamental science. Discoveries made by QBI researchers are leading to treatments—moving from bench to bedside—generating new opportunities for medical technologies and the medical industry in our State and beyond.

A sustainable platform for discovery is vital for ensuring QBI's continued scientific success. We've come a long way, but there is still so much to learn. Please consider partnering with QBI, through its world-class brain research, to help us work towards a common goal of reducing the cost and human impact of brain disease and disorder. I extend an open invitation to visit QBI and see this incredible work in action.

**Jeff Maclean** Chair, QBI Advisory Board

A message from Jeff Maclean - Chair, QBI Advisory Board

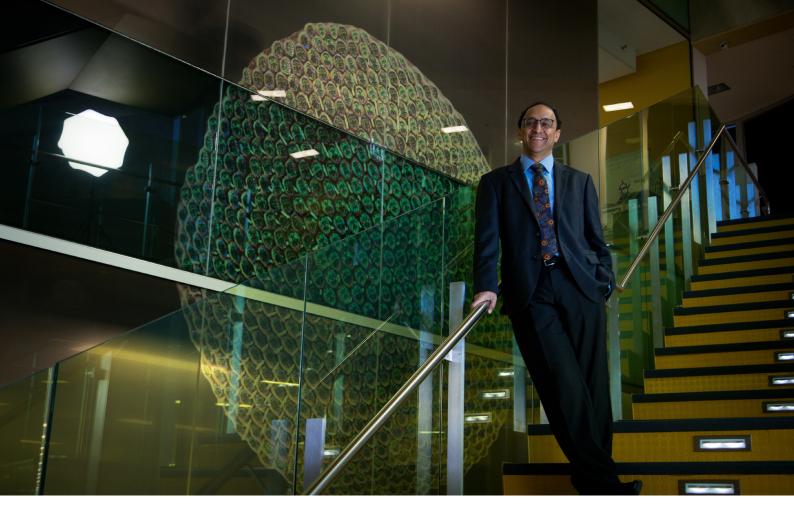
# Why the Queensland Brain Institute?



Understanding how the brain works is one of the greatest challenges in human health. Through fundamental research, QBI is working to find solutions for devastating brain diseases including MND, dementia, depression, stroke and more. Brain diseases and disorders change who a person is, generating far-reaching effects not just on those living with these conditions, but on family members and friends. Today, brain disorders, diseases and injury account for over 20 per cent of the burden of disease in Australia. Soon, they will cost our economy more than heart disease, cancer, and respiratory disease combined.

> Urgent support for world-class brain research is needed to reduce the reach, impact and costs of brain disease and disorder.

QBI is one of the top brain research institutes in the Asia-Pacific region and every discovery made by our 250 world-class researchers lays down another piece in the jigsaw puzzle of our brains. Our goal is to uncover the brain's secrets to harness both its power and address the burden of disease. Our brains are immensely complex and powerful, far more efficient and adaptable than today's computers and artificial intelligence systems. But they are also fragile, and when damaged, the consequences are severe.



Understanding what the brain does, and why its dysfunction leads to neurological and mental disorders, presents some of the most challenging questions in society today. QBI is a research powerhouse. Every day brings new findings, moving us closer to unravelling the mysteries of the brain, and finding cures for these devastating disorders. I am privileged to lead this team of talented scientists and encourage you to join us on our journey of discovery.

Right now, we can identify brain diseases and disorders, but we don't yet fully understand what causes things to go wrong in the brain. This stops us from creating early diagnostic tools, developing effective prevention strategies, and discovering drugs and treatments that can slow down or cure disease.

Our Brain Research Endowment Fund was established to embrace the critical role that philanthropic donations play in progressing new, out-of-the-box ideas that lead to scientific breakthroughs. It is the steadfast commitment to fundamental research that has ultimately led to our planned clinical trials. Through your generosity we can address unmet needs—supporting young researchers; backing early stage, high-risk, high-reward projects; and providing seed funding to secure government support for larger initiatives. These niche areas can have an enormous impact on solving major health issues facing society today.

We aim to reach our long-term goal of sustainably supporting discovery science by developing enduring partnerships with individuals, Foundations, and corporates to prove what progressive outcomes discovery research can generate.

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Professor Pankaj Sah Director, QBI

A message from Professor Pankaj Sah - QBI Director

# Meet a researcher: Dr Rebecca San Gil



Dr Rebecca San Gil, inaugural FightMND Early Career Research Fellow Dr San Gil has over five years of experience in neurodegeneration research in Australia and the UK, with a focus on understanding the causes of motor neuron disease (MND) and frontotemporal dementia (FTD) and developing effective therapies to slow, stop, or cure disease.

"The Brain Research Endowment Fundwill help progress my research to achieveoutcomes which will help those living with MND."

#### A message from Rebecca:

I am a passionate researcher intent on dedicating my career to finding new treatments to cure MND and frontotemporal dementia. As an early career researcher, I am excited about my future career in research using revolutionary gene editing technology to identify new therapeutic targets in neurodegenerative diseases. This approach will fast-track our understanding of the individual genes and biological processes that cause disease, enabling us to test new gene therapies to treat neurodegenerative diseases. Through collaboration, I strongly believe that as a scientific community we can work smarter together by combining our specialist expertise.

As an early career researcher, I live with the knowledge that due to the low success rate in competitive Government funding schemes, I face an uphill battle to secure funding and I am reliant on support from my laboratory. The Brain Research Endowment Fund will help scientists, like me, undertake pilot studies that lead to future funding success. In my case, that means progressing my research and ultimately delivering outcomes that help those living with MND.

# Meet our donors: Ms Elizabeth Jameson and Dr Abbe Anderson



"From the moment we toured the Queensland Brain Institute's labs, we knew this was research we wanted to support."

It is not often that one witnesses true breakthroughs in science happening before your eyes, and it's all happening right here in Brisbane. QBI conducts fundamental research, that is, research at the cellular and DNA level. It is discoveries at the fundamental level that underpin new drugs and treatments for mental health and neurodegenerative disorders.

Following our tour of QBI's laboratory, we decided to support QBI both through donation and action. Elizabeth hosted a QBI boardroom lunch, in partnership with PwC, to raise awareness in the corporate sector of QBI's important work, and we have continued to promote QBI through corporate partnerships and to our friends and colleagues.

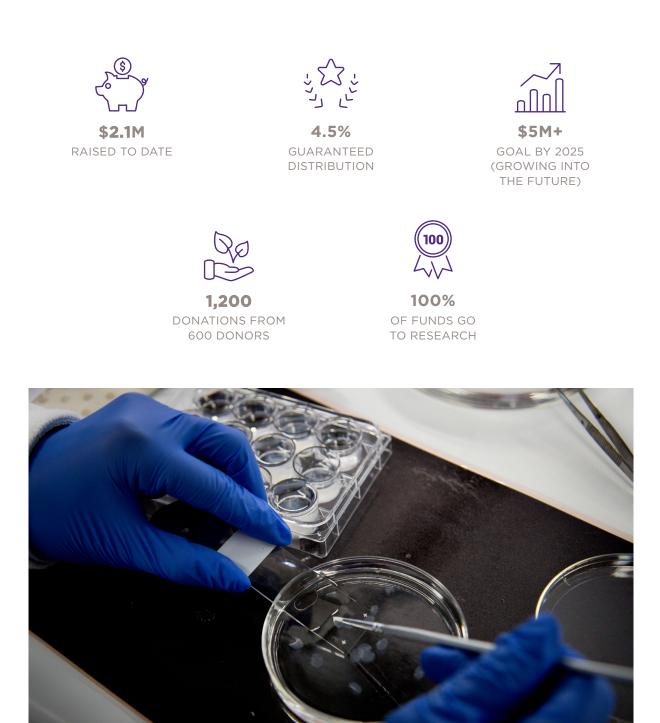
We believe that the work QBI is doing to improve lives of people by better understanding the brain, in both health and disease, will have enormous impact on society. All Australians should be proud to support this worldclass research institute right here in our own backyard. If you get a chance to tour QBI's facilities, we highly recommend the experience as there is nothing quite like seeing research in action and hearing the passion of the world-leading researchers at QBI.

We encourage you to join us in supporting QBI's exciting discoveries.

#### **Elizabeth Jameson & Abbe Anderson**

# Brain Research Endowment Fund

At the University of Queensland, endowment funds across the University are invested by the University and earnings distributed back to the individual funds on an annual basis. One hundred per cent of income earned is returned to QBI for investment in research. UQ uses external specialist fund managers including Dalton Nicol Reid, Hyperion, HarbourVest, Cooper Investors and Vanguard to invest funds.



\* above numbers as at September 2023

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# Investing for long-term impact



A message from Gail Jukes - UQ Chief Financial Officer The University maintains a long-term investment portfolio known as the UQ Investment Fund. Endowments are invested in the Fund and the earnings distributed to causes as specified by you, our donors. In 2023, the portion of the UQ Investment Fund related to endowments totalled \$342.7 million.

As UQ's new Chief Financial Officer, I am proud to lead the team responsible for growing the impact of your gift through UQ's endowment fund—providing steady, reliable returns to secure the greatest long-term outcomes for your generosity.

## Endowed gifts are philanthropic investments in a better future.

When you give to an endowed fund at UQ, your gift is invested across a diversified portfolio managed by external specialists, with oversight by UQ's Senate and Finance Committee.

We are committed to protecting and growing UQ's endowment, while maximising the impact on the causes it supports. To do this, UQ Senate endorsed a new endowment policy in 2021. The new policy, applied from 1 January 2022, links the annual distribution of the endowment to its market value, in line with global best practice.

As the value of the fund grows through new gifts and investment returns, so does the annual distribution—and the impact of your gift.

Thank you for considering partnering with UQ and QBI to create change and drive medical research.

#### Gail Jukes

Chief Financial Officer, UQ

### UQ Investment Fund



UQ ENDOWMENT FUND VALUE AT END OF 2021

	1	
	• • •	
	•	
8	3.03	%

SEVEN YEAR AVERAGE RETURN

### Frequently Asked Questions

## What are the different ways to support the Brain Research Endowment Fund?

**Cash gifts:** Gifts can be made by cash, cheque, credit card, bank transfer, and recurring payroll deductions. Donations to the Brain Research Endowment Fund can be made by sending a donation slip (available from QBI Advancement staff) or via the following link or QR code:

#### https://donations.uq.edu.au/qbi-discovery-research



**Corporate Giving:** Many companies offer employees a matching gift benefit that doubles the contribution to QBI through workplace giving programs or regular payroll deductions.

**Planned Giving:** Donors can establish a lasting legacy, through the QBI by leaving a Gift in Will. These gifts can have transformational impact and make a lasting difference to the priority needs of the future, while helping to reduce the amount of your taxable estate.

#### Is my donation tax deductible?

Gifts to UQ's Queensland Brain Institute are taxdeductible and 100 per cent of every donation goes to the nominated cause.

## How secure is my investment and what is the investment strategy?

When you invest with UQ, your gift is protected by risk mitigation strategies including a welldiversified portfolio across a number of industry sectors operated by external specialist fund managers, with oversight by the UQ Senate Finance Committee.

## What is the expected return on the endowment fund?

The annual target return for the Endowment Fund is an average of six per cent plus CPI per annum over rolling seven year periods. The UQ Investment Fund yielded a return of 15.8 per cent for the year ending 31 December, 2020 and the seven year average return was 11.34 per cent.

## Who manages the investment of the Endowment Fund?

The external specialist fund managers engaged by UQ to invest our funds are Dalton Nicol Reid, Hyperion, HarbourVest, Cooper Investors and Vanguard.

#### Will a grant be paid from the fund annually regardless of how good or poor the earnings are in a particular year?

Yes, The UQ Investment Fund is designed to protect your investment and guarantees a distribution of 4.5% to the Brain Research Endowment Fund irrespective of the return. In this way, a grant will always be awarded from the Brain Research Endowment Fund.

## How are the successful grant recipients chosen?

An annual distribution will be allocated via a robust internal grant round, governed by a research committee of internal and external lead researchers at UQ and QBI. Your Brain Research Endowment Fund contacts will be in touch to discuss how we can partner through philanthropy:



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