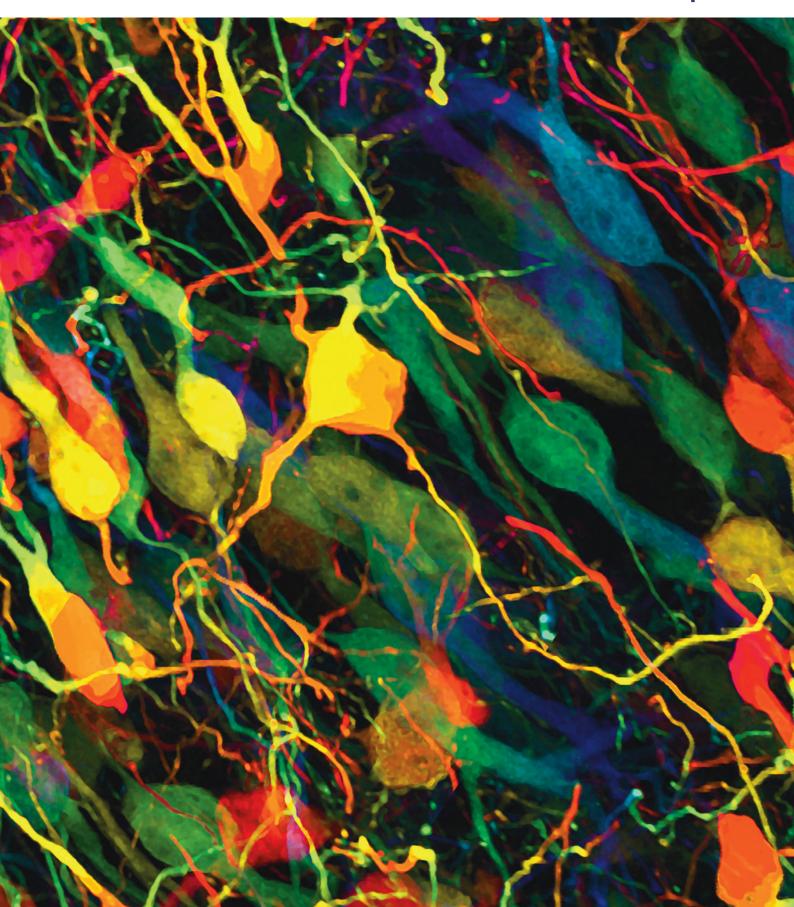


## Queensland Brain Institute 2016 Annual Report



## Director's message



2016 was a year of strong achievement, and QBI continued to grow and establish itself as a central player in neuroscience in the Asia-Pacific region.

The number of annual QBI publications in leading scientific journals remained high at 369, as did our grant success in both the NHMRC and ARC schemes, with 47% and 33% success rates respectively, well above the national averages. It was particularly rewarding that many of our younger recruits were successful in obtaining grants. QBI Faculty also received a number of prestigious fellowships and prizes. Of note, John McGrath was awarded the Danish Niels Bohr Fellowship, Geoff Faulkner (a joint appointment with Mater Research) was awarded the CSL Centenary Fellowship, Naomi Wray (a joint appointment with IMB) was elected to the Australian Academy of Science, and Linda Richards was awarded an NHMRC Professorial Research Fellowship.

Our clinical links were strengthened with joint appointments with Mater Neuroscience. Dr Dhanisha Jhaveri and Professor Geoff Faulkner are two research appointments, and we have also secured two new clinical appointments with Professors Peter Nestor and Michael O'Sullivan, both of whom will be starting in 2017. The Asia-Pacific Centre for Neuromodulation (APCN) is now fully integrated into QBI, with a clinical trial underway using Deep Brain Stimulation to treat Obsessive Compulsive Disorder.

The International Research Review Board was established, with the appointment of five international scientists, whose research collectively covers the broad range of science being undertaken within the Institute. Board members include Professors Ray Dolan (University College London, Chair), Alison Goate (Mt Sinai), Andreas Lüthi (Friedrich Miescher Institute), Mu-ming Poo (Berkeley and the Institute of Neuroscience) and Li-Huei Tsai (MIT). This Board will review the current and future research focus of QBI, as well as individual Faculty members at their inaugural meeting in August 2017.

**Professor Pankaj Sah** 

Pany Sol

Director, Queensland Brain Institute

# Research highlights

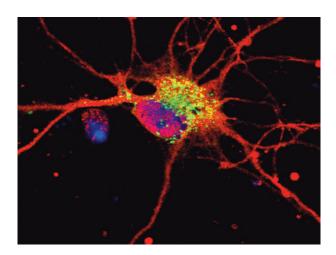
There were several major research discoveries in 2016, as well as the progression of a number of research outcomes towards clinical trials.



Professor Perry Bartlett's laboratory commenced a clinical trial to identify the optimal amount of exercise and its impact on cognitive improvement. The trial, a collaboration with UQ's School of Human Movement and Nutritional Sciences and the Centre for Advanced Imaging, will recruit people aged 65 and over, and also aims to find blood and brain biomarkers of improved cognitive function due to exercise.



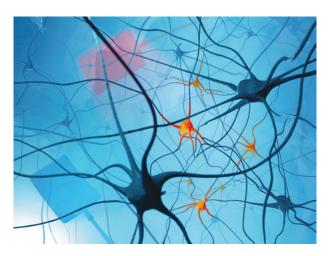
Professor Lizzie Coulson has made a discovery that a sleep apnoea machine (CPAP) may reduce risk for Alzheimer's Disease. The CPAP machine keeps airways open during sleep—counteracting the lower levels of oxygen that reach the brain during poorly ventilated sleep—and may work because brain cells can die if not adequately oxygenated. This discovery may progress to human trials in the future.



**Professor Fred Meunier** found a surprising link between neurodegenerative diseases and a rare form of epilepsy. Mutations to a protein called Munc18-1 were known to trigger this rare epilepsy. What Professor Meunier and his laboratory have shown is that the mutations can also cause clumping of the  $\alpha$ -synuclein protein, similar to the pathology seen in Parkinson's disease patients.



Professor John McGrath has found a link between Vitamin D deficiency in pregnancy and increased autism traits. He, together with Dr Henning Tiemeier from the Erasmus Medical Centre in The Netherlands, found that pregnant women with low Vitamin D levels at 20 weeks' gestation were more likely to have a child with autistic traits by the age of six.



**Professor Jason Mattingley** and researchers from UQ's School of Psychology showed for the first time that "brain training" for specific tasks can also improve broader brain performance. When combined with transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS), participants showed improved performance not only in the task they were trained on, but also in a separate task. The improvements were still evident up to two weeks later.



Associate Professor Bruno van Swinderen and PhD student Leonie Kirszenblat published a paper on the many links between sleep and attention. The pair note that sleep and attention both allow the brain to ignore irrelevant information, and that they may use similar brain mechanisms to achieve that.

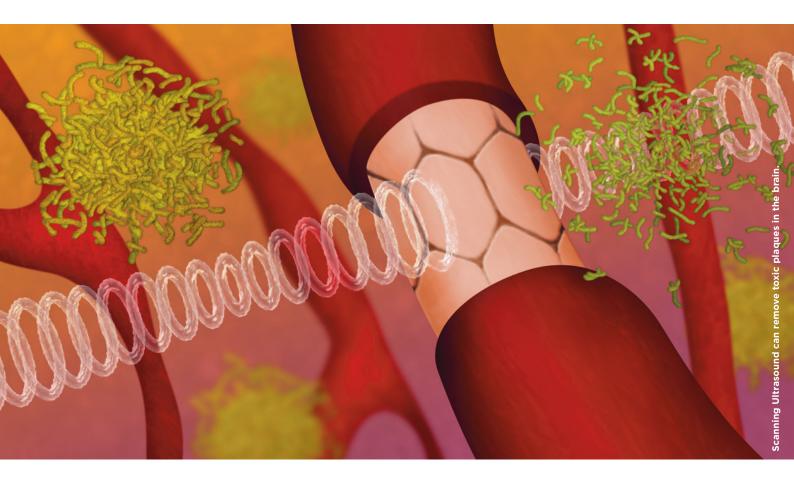


**Professor Naomi Wray** was part of a team that discovered three new genes that increase the risk of motor neurone disease (MND), opening the door for targeted treatments. MND is a complex, debilitating disease with no effective treatments. Professor Wray hopes to extend the study using a \$1 million grant that arose out of the Ice Bucket Challenge.



Professor Peter Visscher was part of a large consortium that identified 74 genes that may play a role in how long a person stays at school, or whether they go to university. These genes can account for up to 20 per cent variation in how much schooling a person received. Professor Visscher cautions that this does not mean educational attainment is determined at birth, with so many other factors—social and environmental—playing a larger role.

## Commercialisation



A number of research outcomes have also progressed towards commercialisation.

#### Alzheimer's disease and dementia

The "Scanning Ultrasound System", developed in the Götz laboratory within the Clem Jones Centre for Ageing Dementia Research (CJCADR), is still in the research stage, but is progressing towards development of a prototype for use in clinical trial. QBI has recently hired a Product Development Manager to accelerate the program and has contracted Hydrix Pty Ltd, an engineering consultancy firm, to undertake a program of work (including due diligence), with a view to building the prototype. Significant due diligence activities have been undertaken to identify the IP landscape for ultrasound devices and to map potential "treatments" for Alzheimer's disease against this product.

#### Motor neurone disease

The EphA4 project of the Bartlett laboratory has had UQ-generated intellectual property licensed to a spin out company. It will also generate a Research Fund Fee (as defined in the Proceeds of Commercialisation Agreement) to the Queensland State Government.

# Fellowships, honours and awards

#### **Academy of Finland**

#### Dr Merja Joensuu

Acadamey of Finland Postdoctoral Fellowship

#### **Asian-Pacific Society for Neurochemistry**

#### Dr Victor Anggono

Young Investigator Award

#### **Australasian Neuroscience Society**

#### Professor Naomi Wray

Nina Kondelos prize

Brent Neumann, Sean Coakley, Rosina Giordano-Santini, Casey Linton, Eui Seung Lee, Akihisa Nakagawa, Ding Xue & Massimo A Hilliard

Paxinos-Watson Award

## Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences

#### **Professor Linda Richards**

Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences Fellow

#### Professor Jürgen Götz

Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences Fellow

#### **Australian Academy of Science**

#### Professor Naomi Wray

Australian Academy of Science Fellow

#### Dr Marta Garrido

Early- and Mid-Career Research Forum

#### Australian Institute of Policy and Science

#### Dr Shyuan Ngo

QLD Young Tall Poppy Science Award

#### **Australian Museum**

#### **Professor Geoff Faulkner**

Scopus Eureka Prize for Excellence in International Scientific Collaboration

#### **Australian Research Council**

#### **Professor Geoff Faulkner**

Ruth Stephens Gani Meda

#### Dr Rodrigo Suárez

Discovery Early Career Researcher Award

#### Dr Beben Benyamin

US-Indonesia Kavli Frontiers of Science Symposium

#### **Motor Accident Insurance Commission**

#### Dr Fatima Nasrallah

Senior Research Fellowship

## Motor Neurone Disease Research Institute of Australia Inc

#### **Dr Fleur Garton**

MND RIA Postdoctoral Fellowship

#### Motor Neurone Disease (Victoria)

#### Dr Beben Benyamin

The Nina Buscombe Award

#### **Dr Fleur Garton**

The Nina Buscombe Award

#### National Health and Medical Research Council

#### Associate Professor Helen Cooper

One of the Ten of the Best NHMRC Research Projects of 2015

#### Associate Professor Massimo Hilliard

NHMRC Research fellowship

#### Dr Sean Coakley

NHMRC-ARC Dementia Research Development fellowship

#### **Roche Products Pty Ltd**

#### Professor Pankaj Sah

Translational Seminar Series 2015

## South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute

#### **Professor Perry Bartlett**

Samuel Gershon Medal for Lifetime Achievement in Translational Neuroscience

#### **Swiss National Science Foundation**

#### Dr Fabio Cortesi

Early Postdoc Mobility Fellowship

#### The University of Queensland

#### Associate Professor Massimo Hilliard

UQ Vice-Chancellor's Research Focused Fellowship

#### Associate Professor Bruno van Swinderen

UQ Development Fellowship

#### Dr Marta Garrido

UQ Development Fellowship

#### The Yulgilbar Foundation

#### Rebecca Nisbet

Postdoctoral Researcher Excellence Award

## Grants

QBI had a successful year in obtaining competitive funding in both the Australian Research Council (ARC) and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grant rounds with a success rate of 24.3% for NHMRC Project Grants (national average 13.7%) and 50% for ARC Discovery Projects (national average 17.7%). A list of the grants that commenced in 2016 follows

#### Alzheimer's Australia

Dementia Research Foundation Project Grant

#### Marie-Lou Camara and Elizabeth Coulson

A novel approach to enhance cognitive function and promote synaptic plasticity

#### **Australian Museum**

Lizard Island Research Grant

Fabio Cortesi

#### **Australian Research Council**

**ARC Discovery Projects** 

#### Jürgen Götz

A novel click chemistry approach to identify learning and memory molecules

#### Peter Visscher and Matthew Robinson

The genetics of ageing in human populations

#### Peter Visscher

Phenotypic profiling from DNA using genetic and epigenetic information

#### Jian Yang and Michael Goddard

The role of X-chromosome inactivation in quantitative trait variation

#### Massimo Hilliard

Understanding the molecular mechanisms regulating neuronal fusion

#### Zhitao Hu

Investigating the molecular mechanism of synaptic transmission

#### Linda Richards and Rodrigo Suárez

Unravelling the principles of bilateral brain wiring

#### AstraZeneca Pty Ltd

**Investigator Initiated Study** 

Phillip Robinson, Nicole Dalbeth, Danny Liew A study of the burden of disease in gout compared to diabetes mellitus

#### **Brain and Behavior Research Foundation**

NARSAD Young Investigator Grant

#### Jake Gratten

Genomic analysis of sex differences in prevalence of psychiatric disorders

#### **CNGbio Corp**

#### Frederic Meunier

Embryonic animals and tissue cultures

#### **Ian Potter Foundation**

Travel Grants

Alex Puckett

Rodrigo Suárez

#### International Brain Research Organization

International Travel Grant

Rodrigo Suárez

#### **Japan Neuroscience Society**

Travel Award

Victor Anggono

#### Mater Research

**BICARE Grant** 

#### Catherine Franklin, Kai-Hsiang Chuang, Fatima Nasrallah, Nicholas Lennox

Understanding acute regression in adolescents and young adults with down syndrome

#### National Health and Medical Research Council

NHMRC Project Grants

#### Oliver Baumann and Christine Guo

High-resolution brain imaging of cerebellar non-motor functions

#### **Geoffrey Goodhill**

How are axons guided to their targets in the developing nervous systems?

#### Jake Gratten and Peter Visscher

Genetic analysis of the relationship between parental age and risk of psychiatric disorders

#### Bruno van Swinderen and Victor Anggono

Molecular mechanisms underlying recovery from general anaesthesia

### Luca Cocchi, Andrew Zalesky, Olaf Sporns and Jason Mattingley

Selective modulation of neural network activity using focal brain stimulation

#### John McGrath, Pankaj Sah, Victor Anggono, Darryl Eyles and Thomas Burne

Voltage-gated calcium channels and vitamin D: exploring the convergent links between risk factors for schizophrenia

#### Linda Richards, Elliot Sherr and Thomas Burne

Delayed radial glial maturation linked to NFI deficiency as an underlying cause of cortical defects in humans and mice

#### Pankaj Sah

Auditory processing in the amygdala

#### Jian Yang and Allan McRae

Methods and software tool for complex trait analyses using multi-omics data

Australian Government Funding Scheme	Successful QBI applications	QBI Success rate	National Success rate
ARC Discovery Projects	7	50%	17.7%
ARC Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA)	1	20%	16.4%
NHMRC Projects	9	24.3%	13.7%
NHMRC Research Fellowships	1	50%	not published

#### **Queensland Government**

Advance Queensland Mid Career Research Fellowship

#### James Kesby

Establishing therapeutic links between early dopamine function and schizophrenia

Advance Women's Academic Fund Maternity Funding

Rosina Giordano-Santini

## Rebecca L Cooper Medical Research Foundation

Research Grant

#### Jean Giacomotto

Using the Zebrafish to fight psychiatric disorders: from proof-of-principle to new insights and treatments

## Research Foundation of Cerebral Palsy Alliance

Research Project Grant

Margaret J Wright, Roslyn Boyd, Stephen Rose, Gai McMichael and Michael Fahey

"Imagine Cerebral Palsy" Genome and Connectome study

## Sea World Research and Rescue Foundation Inc

Marine Vertebrate Grant

#### Fabio Cortesi and Justin Marshall

Seeing colour on the reef: molecular basis for opsin evolution in surgeonfishes

#### Stichting Incontinence Foundation

#### Hari Subramanian

Deep brain stimulation therapy for treatment of urge-incontinence and overactive bladder

#### The University of Queensland

**UQ Early Career Researcher Grants** 

#### Zhitao Hu

The presynaptic mechanism of neurotransmission

#### Steven Zurvn

Generating transgenic mitochondrial genomes for investigation of mitochondrial biology in vivo

UQ Major Equipment and Infrastructure grant

#### Bruno van Swinderen, Barry Dickson and Sean Millard

4-Dimensional multi-photon microscopy for understanding neural circuits and behaviour

**UQ NHMRC Equipment Grants** 

#### Geoffrey Goodhill, Perry Bartlett, Thomas Burne, Elizabeth Coulson, Helen Cooper, Linda Richards, Jürgen Götz and Justin Marshall

Light-sheet microscope for high-speed 3D imaging of live organisms and fixed tissue

#### Massimo Hilliard, Steven Zuryn, Zhitao Hu and Jürgen Götz

Automatic plate pourer

#### The Yulgilbar Foundation

Alzheimer's Research Program Grants

Jürgen Götz

#### **University of Otago**

World Mental Health Survey Grant

John McGrath

# QBI Executive and Faculty

#### **QBI** Executive



Professor Pankaj Sah Institute Director



Professor Linda Richards
Deputy Director
(Research)



Mr John Kelly Deputy Director (Strategic)



**Ms Helen Weir**Deputy Director
(Operations)

#### **QBI** Faculty

**Dr Victor Anggono**Synaptic neurobiology

Professor Perry Bartlett
Neurogenic regulation of cognition

**Associate Professor Tim Bredy** Cognitive neuroepigenetics

**Associate Professor Thomas Burne**Developmental neurobiology

Dr Allen Cheung

Computational neuroscience and spatial navigation

Associate Professor Kai-Hsiang Chuang

Functional and molecular neuroimaging

Associate Professor Helen Cooper Neural migration

Professor Elizabeth Coulson Nerve cell survival

Associate Professor Terry Coyne

Neurosurgery and deep brain stimulation

**Professor Ross Cunnington**Brain and action

Professor Barry Dickson
Locomotor circuits in Drosophila

**Professor Darryl Eyles** Neurobiology of mental health

**Professor Geoff Faulkner**Computational and molecular biology

Computational and molecular biolog **Dr Marta Garrido** 

Computational cognitive neuroscience

**Professor Geoffrey Goodhill**Computational, systems and developmental neuroscience

Professor Jürgen Götz

Basic neuroscience and ageing dementia

Associate Professor Massimo Hilliard

Molecular and cellular neurobiology

Dr Zhitao Hu

Neurotransmitter release

**Dr Dhanisha Jhaveri**Cellular regulation of stress and depression

**Professor Tianzi Jiang**Brainnetome and neuroimaging

**Professor Joseph Lynch** Molecular neuroscience

**Professor Justin Marshall** Sensory neurobiology

**Professor Jason Mattingley**Cognitive neuroscience

**Professor John McGrath**Epidemiology and clinical trials

**Dr Rodrigo Medeiros** Neurodegenerative diseases

**Professor Frederic Meunier** Single molecule neuroscience

**Professor Grant Montgomery**Complex trait and disease genomics

**Professor Bryan Mowry**Psychiatric genomics

**Dr Fatima Nasrallah**Functional neuroimaging and brain injury

**Dr Patricio Opazo** Synaptic memory Mr Geoff Osborne

Flow cytometry

**Dr Michael Piper** Neural stem cells

**Professor Linda Richards**Brain development and disorders

**Professor Pankaj Sah** Synaptic plasticity

Professor Peter Silburn Neurosurgery and deep brain stimulation

**Professor Mandyam Srinivasan** Neuroscience of vision and aerial robotics

Associate Professor Bruno van Swinderen Cognitive and behavioural

Cognitive and behavioural neuroscience

**Professor Peter Visscher**Neurogenetics and statistical genomics

Neuroimmunology and cognition

**Professor Stephen Williams** Synaptic integration in neural networks

Professor Naomi Wray

Neurogenetics and statistical genomics **Associate Professor Margie Wright** 

Imaging genomics

Dr Jana Vukovic

**Professor Jian Yang** Neurogenetics and statistical genomics

**Dr Steven Zuryn**Epigenetics and mitochondrial biology

## **QBI** Students

There were a total of 115 RHD students enrolled at QBI, which included 2 Master of Philosophy candidates. Congratulations go to the 19 RHD students who graduated in 2016.

#### 2016 Graduates

#### Joon Yong An PhD

Principal Advisor: Associate Professor Charles Claudianos Identification and functional characterization of genetic variants in an Australian autism spectrum disorder cohort

#### **Stephanie Biergans** PhD

Principal Advisor: Associate Professor Charles Claudianos DNA methylation and the regulation of stimulusspecific memory formation

#### Zoran Boskovic PhD

Principal Advisor: Professor Elizabeth Coulson Role of p75 neurotrophin receptor in normal cholinergic basal forebrain function in adults

#### Natalie Groves PhD

Principal Advisor: Associate Professor Thomas Burne The role of adult vitamin D deficiency in cognition and brain function in mice

#### Nicholas Hughes PhD

Principal Advisor: Professor Geoffrey Goodhill Neural plasticity via visual cortical maps

#### Sarah Hunt PhD

Principal Advisor: Professor Pankaj Sah Intrinsic circuitry of the central lateral amygdala

#### Leonie Kirszenblat PhD

Principal Advisor: Associate Professor Bruno van Swinderen Visual attention and sleep homeostasis in Drosophila

#### Natalie Lee PhD

Principal Advisor: Associate Professor Helen Cooper The role of neogenin in epithelial morphogenesis

#### Emilia Lefevre PhD

Principal Advisors: Associate Professor Thomas Burne Neural mechanisms of MK-801 induced sensitisation

#### Xiang Li PhD

Principal Advisor: Associate Professor Tim Bredy Tet protein-medicated DNA hydroxymethylation within the prefrontal cortex as a mechanism for the formation and maintenance of fear-related memory

#### CiRong Liu PhD

Principal Advisor: Professor Tianzi Jiang Studying brainnetome of DISC1 and socially isolated mice with neuroimaging techniques

#### Aung Aung Kywe Moe PhD

Principal Advisor: Professor Darryl Eyles Evaluating the long-term consequences of adolescent antipsychotic exposure

#### Vinod Narayana PhD

Principal Advisor: Professor Frederic Meunier Unravelling changes in lipid composition in stimulated neurons and neurosecretory cells by quantitative lipid profiling



As part of his PhD, **Dr Zoran Boskovic** took part in UQ's work experience pilot program, partnering with the Queensland Government. Zoran was placed in a team tasked with finding innovative solutions to challenges faced by a group of Queensland businesses.

Involved in a project at the Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts (DSITIA), he was in charge of delivering an innovation clinic that aimed to provide inventive solutions for dairy exports in North Queensland.

The experience helped him to broaden his communication skills in an industry setting where there is a need to communicate ideas and solutions in different formats, and was an exciting opportunity for him to challenge himself and test the skills he acquired during his PhD at QBI.

#### Huyen Nguyen PhD

Principal Advisor: Professor Geoffrey Goodhill Mathematical modelling of axon guidance in chemical gradients

#### Genevieve Phillips PhD

Principal Advisor: Professor Justin Marshall Visual ecology of predator-prey relationships on the coral reef

#### Ming Shiuan Soh PhD

Principal Advisor: Professor Joseph Lynch Discovering novel alpha5-containing GABA-A receptor selective drugs for schizophrenia, stroke and cognitive impairments

#### Marion Turnbull PhD

Principal Advisor: Professor Elizabeth Coulson Neurotrophin regulation of Alzheimer's disease pathology

#### Karly Turner PhD

Principal Advisor: Associate Professor Thomas Burne Establishing novel cognitive tasks in animal models relevant to schizophrenia

#### $\textbf{Jing Zhao} \; \mathsf{PhD}$

Principal Advisor: Professor Perry Bartlett Role of EphA4 in regulating motor neurone disease and adult neurogenesis

# Philanthropy

During 2016, contributions by generous donors to QBI provided essential support to fund crucial research, which has allowed our scientists to improve our understanding of the fundamental mechanisms that regulate brain function, and which may lead to development of new, more effective therapeutic treatments for conditions such as dementia, stroke, motor neurone disease.

We gratefully acknowledge our supporters who generously donated during the year. QBI relies on both public and private donations to continue its research programs and is grateful for the generosity of its benefactors.

## How to support the Queensland Brain Institute:

#### **Donations**

There are many ways in which you can help support QBI's research effort, including:

- Make a donation for a specific research area
- · Purchase scientific equipment
- Fund scholarships for talented students
- Provide fellowships for early- to mid-career scientists
- Support Professorial Chairs
- Undertake laboratory dedications
- Provide gifts in memoriam
- Fundraise using the community fundraising platform Everyday Hero

#### **Bequests**

By leaving a bequest to QBI in your will, you are leaving a lasting legacy that accelerates current research and preserves future projects. Bequests can include:

- A percentage of an estate
- The residuary of an estate (what remains after all other gifts and costs have been deducted)
- · A gift of a specific sum of money
- A particular asset, such as property, works of art, shares, or an insurance policy

Under current legislation, gifts to the Queensland Brain Institute are tax deductible. To discuss how you can support the Institute, please contact us at:

Telephone: +61 7 3346 6413

Email: communications@qbi.uq.edu.au
Website: www.qbi.uq.edu.au/donate

#### Donors to QBI in 2016

A sincere thank you to ALL our donors, including those who prefer to remain anonymous.

#### **Bequests**

Estate of Muriel Ellen Kangan

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Institute of Australia Inc
Rebecca L Cooper Medical
Research Foundation Limited
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#### Major Individual donors

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Your Salon

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Thomas Mavfield

Lincoln McCarthy

Patrick McCarthy Gwen McClure Molly McCormack Lisa McCulloch Beverley McDonald Tom McDonough Matthew McDonough Kate McEwen Riley Mcfarlane Terry McGarrigle Tom McGrellis Amanda McInerney Jenny McInerney Marcia McInnes Louise McKay Nicholas McKenna Mova McKenzie Jordie McKenzie David McKnight Sam McLeav Michael McMahon Jackson McMahon Cath McMurchy Seamus McMurray Dylan McNeil Jack McPhee Flle McQueen Kate McShane Jovce McTaggart Maddison Mellow Matt Merrett Flizabeth Merson Luke Michalannev Lacy Mildred Joshua Miller Carol Miller Jordan Miller-Owen Michael Mills Sally Minns Andrew Mintz JA Mirls Melody Mitton Suzanne Mockridge Andrew Modra Jessica Moeller Stefano Moi Nick Moles Anne Monfries Glenn Moore Lottie Moorehouse Susan Morcom Clare Morgan Olivia Morley Megan Morphett Warren Morris Charlotte Morrison Marianne Mortimore Dean Moss Peter Moss David Muir Andrew Muir Angela Muir Bevan Muldoon Cyndy Mundy Bev Munro Jane Murfett Tracey Muston Vanda Mutton

Rebecca Nankervis

Patrick Neal-Bullen

Alex Neal-Bullen

Alyce Naylor

Audrey Neill Haanah Neis Lisa Nguyen Toya Nguyen Carl Nicholson Virginia Nink Helen Noad John Nolan Michael Oakes Scott Oatway Simon O'Brien Zachary O'Brien Gavin O'Cadin Patricia O'Connor Kellie O'Connor Mick O'Connor Rhvs O'Keeffe Jason Oliver Brock Olsen Denise O'Mallev Victoria O'Neil Kevin O'Reilly Nick Palmer Stephen Palyga Suzanne Parker Sarah Parker Badra Pathirana John Paton Emily Paton Kate Pawlyszyn Jitesh Payda Alison Payne Christopher Payne Rae Peacock Alice Peek Simon Pengelly Heather Pengelly Sachin Perera Leah Perry Hayley Pfeifer Suzie Phillips Svlvie Pichelin Annabel Pietsch Maddalena Pilla Geoff Piper Craig Pitt Diana Poole Joh Preston Olivia Pretty Tina Previtera Sarah Price Holly Prichard Nicole Qualmann Charlie Quick Megan Quick Ruth Quick Andrew Quin Frank Quin Catherine Quin Sarah Ralphsmith Jason Ransom (in memory of Lisa Katrina Bagrowski) Ian Rech Jack Redden Gabrielle Redden Christine Redden Robin Redden Kylie Rehn I vn Rehn

Georgia Resnais Chris Resnais Anne Revnolds Jane Richardson Emily Richardson Brad Richardson Gabi Robinson Simon Robinson David Robinson John Rocchi Thomas Rockliff Oscar Rogers Chelsie Rohrscheib Francis Romney Robert Rosengard Tom Ross Kelly Ross Virginia Ross Tj Rothel Tracy Rowell Vicki Rowlands Charlette Rule Rosie Russell Anna Russell Lucy Ryan Paul Sandercock Grace Sanders Fiona Sanders Denis Sanders David Sando Louise Sangster Suzie Sangster Claudia Santin The Late Geoffrey Sattler Ben Sawford Craig Schilg Deb Schinckel Duane Schmeri Christina Schmuki Jayne-Ann Schrader Mark Schroder Graham Schrodter Kathryn Schumacher Kelly Schweida Will Scobie Brenton Scott Emma Scott **Justin Scripps** Josh Seal Jenny Self Robyn Semler Mel Semmler Julie Seol John Seymour Jordan Sharpe Sarah Shaw Lachlan Sheffield Janene Shelton Ian Shepherd Bill Sherwin Jodie Shinnick Laura Sigal Donna Simon Catherine Simons Bruce Simpson Darrell Sims Tom Skerlj Robert Slade Marie Sloan Brendon Smart Martin Smith

Kirsty Rehn

Anthony Reidy

Carolynne Smith Sonia Smith Michael Snelling Matthew Snook David Snoswell Glen Soper Elena Sparrow Jonathan Spence Peter Spurling Alexander Stanley Nicholas Stanley Mary Staude Janice Steel Joel Steer Margaret Steinberg Dean Stephens

Maureen Stevenson Kevin Stewart Peter Stubbs Rebecca Sullivan Matt Sully Chloe Swale Emily Swanson Liz Swanton Lisa Swenson Sonya Symes Susan Syrmis Kevin Tan Shaun Tapp Rosemary Tennent Bridget Tester Cohen Thiele Nikki Thomas Glenda Thomas David Thompson Sam Thompson Jane Thompson Cassie Thring Jane Thring George Thring

Anthony Toohey
Jessica Towill
Sarah Traeger
Lise Treacy
Peter Tuckwell
Sheryl Tugwell
Samantha Tuscharski
Elise Vadiveloo
Janet Valle
Nicole Vallely
Tyrone Van der merwe
Alison van Niekerk
Jorgen van Seters

Ben Tollner-Atkinson

Billy Toby

Lara Tod

Jo Vink

Robyn Virgin

Nick Tonkin

Trudy Virgo Henry Walker Richard Wallace-Barnett Georgia Wallis Stacey Wallis-Rabone Catriona Walsh Debra Walton Robert Ward Rikki Watkins Yvonne Watkinson lain Watson Adrian Webb Sandi Webb Anthony Webb Spencer Webb Robin Webb Kathleen Webster Jake Wehl Michael Weible Mia Weideman Helen Weir Marcia Welsh Jack Wheal Darryl White Diana White Tony White Melissa White Samuel White **Bec Whitehead** Rohan Whiting Taylor Whitington Rose Wilcox Eleanor Wilkins Dorothea Wilkinson Darcy Wilkosz Irene Willett Clive Williams OAM Kate Williams Sam Williams Joletta Willis Sharyn Willis Judy Wilsdon Tereena Wilsdon Sally Wilson Zoe Wilson Peter Wilson Philippa Wilson Raefe Winstanley Samuel Winterflood Darryl Wintle Barbara Wolfenden Alicia Wood Megan Wood Thomas Woods Peter Woodward Margaret Woodward

Lisa Wruck

Madeline Yee

Natalie Yuen-Francis



# Generous donation helps research hit the sweet spot for healthy brains

A \$2.1 million donation from the Stafford Fox Medical Research Foundation has allowed researchers at the QBI to launch a world-first clinical trial to determine the exact amount of exercise that can reverse the effects of ageing on the brain.

The Stafford Fox Medical Research Foundation was established in 2013 following the death of Moyna Fox, and named in honour of her and her late husband James Stafford, a former BP Australia chief executive. Both Stafford and Moyna Fox suffered from dementia late in their lives and their foundation is dedicated to funding medical research.

The legacy left by James Stafford and Moyna Fox has allowed a team of scientists at QBI to be the first to discover that the brain contains stem cells which are capable of making new neurons. These stem cells lose their ability to produce new neurons and our cognitive functions begin to decline, as we age.

Exercise has shown to increase the production of new brain cells and improve learning and memory.

The trial will monitor 300 people aged 65 and older to determine the "sweet spot"—the amount, intensity, and type of exercise that leads to cognitive improvement in the ageing brain.

The clinical trial is being led by Professor Perry Bartlett and is a collaboration with UQ's School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences and Centre for Advanced Imaging.

Philanthropic endeavours from organisations, such as the Stafford Fox Foundation, are enabling QBI to continue its ground-breaking work in understanding the brain.

# Public engagement



QBI hosted a number of community engagement events and public lectures in 2016.

QBI invited and hosted The Honourable Leeanne Enoch, Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business to speak at the Inaugural Diversity Lecture and share her inspiring story about how she became a politician. The panel discussion following this included Dr Sallyanne Atkinson AO, Professor Cindy Shannon and Professor lain Watson and was a lively and insightful discussion.

In 2016 QBI held the 3rd annual Hand Heart Pocket Gala, at Customs House, featuring an evening of world class opera performers and a cocktail function. This event raised funds for CJCADR, and was held in partnership with Alzheimer's Australia.

The Australian Brain Bee Challenge was hosted by QBI's Associate Professor van Swinderen in July and encourages Year 10 students to learn about the brain and neuroscience. 15-year-old Shambhavi Mishra from the Queensland Academy for Science, Mathematics and Technology was crowned the 2016 Queensland Brain Bee Champion. Shambhavi outsmarted 126 other finalists from 48 Queensland schools who attended the final at QBI.

QBI scientists also hosted many tours for schools and community groups, as well as presenting at various public events.

#### **Public Lectures**

#### Peter Goodenough Memorial Lecture Professor Ammar Al-Chalabi King's College London

18 August

#### **Inaugural Diversity Lecture**

The Honourable Leanne Enoch MP

Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy, and Minister for Small Business 18 October

#### Merson Lecture

#### Professor Terrence Sejnowski

Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and the Francis Crick Professor at The Salk Institute 26 October

#### Community events

**International Women's Day Lunch** 8 March

Ross Maclean Fellowship Raceday

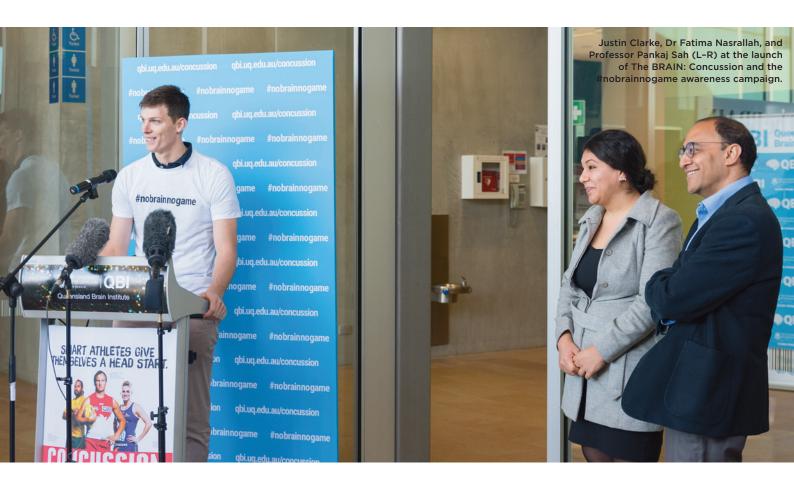
CJCADR Public Dementia Forum
14 April

Queensland Final of the Australian Brain Bee Challenge

19 July

Hand Heart Pocket Gala Evening

21 September



#### The BRAIN series

QBI launched a new magazine, with the first issue devoted to raising awareness of concussion and explaining what we know of the science. The launch was accompanied by the **#nobrainnogame** campaign supported by multiple prominent sports personalities, including AFL stars Justin Clarke and Jude Bolton, tennis player and dual Olympian Casey Dellacqua, and Wallaby Tatafu Polota-Nau to fund research into concussion.

#### Concussion

Issue One, June



# Scientific seminars & symposia



Professor Pierluigi Nicotera (DZNE Bonn) gives the keynote address at the A+PD Symposium

QBI continued to run a high quality weekly neuroscience seminar series presented by QBI staff and graduating students, as well as leading national and international researchers. International speakers included Professor Mu-Ming Poo from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Professor Diana Laurillard from University College London, and Professor Anil Seth from the University of Sussex, who featured at the QBI student symposium.

#### **QBI-hosted symposia**

**CJCADR Translational Research Symposium** 6 April

**A+PD Symposium** 4 May

QBI Postgraduate Student Symposium

25 November

#### **QBI Neuroscience Seminars**

#### **Genevieve Phillips**

Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland Visual ecology of predator-prey relationships on the coral reef

#### Dr Nela Durisic

Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland Quantitative super-resolution microscopy: how well can we count single molecules?

#### Dr Hari Subramanian

Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland The midbrain periaqueductal gray: Critical interface between the emotional and the autonomic brain

#### **Professor Marc Titgemeyer**

Max Planck Institute Cologne, Germany Perspective for in-vivo characterization of basal ganglia loops

#### Associate Professor Kai-Hsiang Chuang

Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland Restless resting-state: neural basis and translation

#### **Karly Turner**

Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland Measuring attention in rodents

#### Dr Kenneth T Kishida

Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute, USA Measurements of dopamine and serotonin release with sub-second temporal resolution in humans: implications for human decision-making, cognition, and mental illness.

#### Professor Colin L Masters MD

Head of the Neurodegeneration Division, The Florey Institute, Laureate Professor, The University of Melbourne Alzheimer's disease: A $\beta$  amyloid is the critical target for primary (pre-AD) and secondary (preclinical) disease-modifying strategies

#### Dr Alex Puckett

Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland Measuring the effects of attention in human cortex using fMRI

#### Dr Marta Sinclair

Griffith Business School, Griffith University, Brisbane The current state of intuition research and possible synergies with neuroscience

#### **Professor Sonke Johnsen**

Biology Department, Duke University, Durham USA Colorful but colorblind shrimp, not so cryptic silvery fish, and the giant eyes of giant squid: three short tales of biological optics

#### Dr John Lin

University of Tasmania

The development of next generation of optogenetic tools for improved control and observation of neuronal functions

#### Yan Zhang

Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland Physiological properties of glycinergic synapses with defined subunit compositions

#### CiRong Lu

Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland Studying brainnetome of DISC1 and socially isolated mice with diffusion MRI

#### **Professor Patrick Chauvel**

Neurological Institute Epilepsy Center, Cleveland Clinic, USA Déjà vu and reminiscences: data from intra-cerebral recordings

#### **Professor Brian Butterworth**

Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, and Department of Psychology, University College London, UK Mathematical disabilites

#### **Professor Diana Laurillard**

Institute of Education, University College London, UK Learning 'number sense' through digital games with intrinsic feedback

#### Associate Professor Michael O' Sullivan

Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience, King's College London UK

White matter connections and human memory: nuances and flexibility in the mapping of structure and function

#### **Professor Fred Meunier**

Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland Footprint of SNARE assembly and disassembly during neuronal communication

#### Dr Stanley Heinze

Department of Biology, Lund University, Sweden Merging information about direction and distance: the bee central complex as plausible neural substrate for path integration

#### Professor Alan Mackay-Sim

Director, National Centre for Adult Stem Cell Research, Griffith University

The cell biology of schizophrenia

#### **Professor David Small**

Menzies Institute for Medical Research, University of Tasmania

Molecular mechanisms associated with neural network dysfunction in Alzheimer's disease

#### Dr Lucy M Palmer

The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, University of Melbourne

The functional importance of dendritic integration in cortical neurons

#### Associate Professor Massimo Hilliard

Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland Axonal fusion: an alternative mechanism to repair injured axons

#### **Professor Glenda Halliday**

School of Medical Sciences, UNSW

Identifying different proteinopathies in patients with frontotemporal dementia and other neurodegenerative diseases: are we ready for clinical trials that target pathological proteins?

#### Emilia LeFevre

Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland Neural mechanisms of MK-801 induced sensitisation

#### **Gerhard Leinenga**

Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland Investigations of the effects of scanning focused ultrasound in mouse models of Alzheimer's disease

#### **Professor Mike Ryan**

Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Monash University

Mitochondrial biogenesis: dynamic protein complexes for a dynamic organelle

#### Dr Jason Howitt

The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health Targeting autism using mechanism based therapeutics: can we cure autism and do we want to?

#### Aung Aung Kywe Moe

Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland Evaluating long-term consequences of adolescent antipsychotic exposure

#### Associate Professor Supriya Srinivasan

The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, California, USA Neurobiology of body fat metabolism: lessons from C. elegans

#### Dr Simon Schultz

Department of Bioengineering, Imperial College, London UK Analysis of information encoding and dynamics in optically recorded cortical circuits

#### Associate Professor Chamindie Punyadeera

Faculty of Health, Queensland University of Technology Human saliva: linking oral fluids with systemic diseases

#### **Professor Geoff Cumming**

School of Psychology and Public Health, La Trobe University Significance roulette and open science: the research practices we need for better science

#### **Professor Bernard Balleine**

Brain and Mind Research Institute, School of Medical Sciences, University of Sydney Predictive learning and the cognitive control of action

#### **Associate Professor Margie Wright**

Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland Using imaging and genetics to unravel the complexity of the human brain



Professor Anil Seth presents the keynote seminar at the QBI Postgraduate Student Symposium

#### Morgane Nouvian

Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland Molecular and neural mechanisms underlying the olfactory modulation of aggression in honeybees

#### **Professor Shuba Tole**

Department of Biological Sciences, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, India Cell fate specification in the developing cerebral cortex

#### Professor Klaas Enno Stephan

Institute of Biomedical Engineering, Zurich, Switzerland Translational neuromodeling

#### Dr Marta Garrido

Queensland Brain Institute, and Centre for Advanced Imaging, The University of Queensland Predictive coding in sensory learning

#### Dr Jocelyn Widagdo

Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland Activity-dependent RNA methylation in learning and memory

#### Professor Terry Sejnowski

The Salk Institute for Biological Studies, USA While you were sleeping: memory consolidation

#### Natalie Lee

Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland The role of neogenin in epithelial morphogenesis

#### Dr J Bertran Gonzalez

School of Psychology, University of New South Wales Slow down, old-timer!—How ageing is making us rush

#### Ilvana Dzafic

Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland The neuroimaging and genetics of emotion perception in schizophrenia

#### Professor Sam Berkovic

Director, Epilepsy Research Centre, Melbourne Epilepsies: from genetics to precision medicine

#### Dr Tara Walker

Center for Regenerative Therapies, Dresden, Germany Activation of a latent hippocampal precursor population

#### **Professor Anil Seth**

University of Sussex, UK

The new neuroscience of consciousness: solving the real problem

#### Professor Peter Dayan

Director, Gatsby Computational Neuroscience Unit, University College London, UK Reverse replay during human problem solving

#### Professor Ray Dolan

Wellcome Trust Centre for Neuroimaging, University College London, UK Value representational plasticity

#### **Professor Mu-ming Poo**

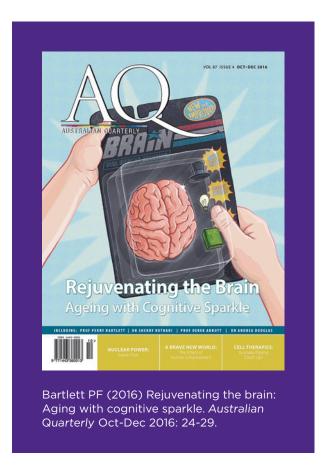
Institute of Neuroscience, Chinese Academy of Sciences Neural plasticity: from synapse to cognition

## **Publications**

In 2016, QBI authors published 369 peer-reviewed, original research articles, 21 of which were in *Nature* journals. Four articles were featured as cover illustrations in their respective journals. In addition, QBI researchers authored 1 book and 5 book chapters, as well as 6 peer-reviewed conference papers.

#### Scientific publications

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- Alaghband Y, Bredy TW & Wood MA (2016) The role of active DNA demethylation and Tet enzyme function in memory formation and cocaine action. Neuroscience Letters 625: 40-46.
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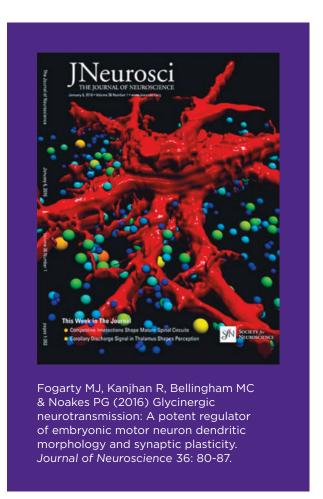


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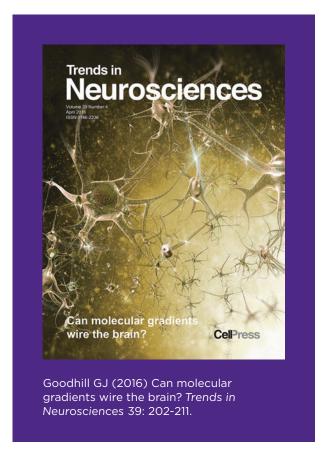
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