Message from the Executive Director

I am extremely proud of our expert teams – their dedication to excellence, commitment to our customers and their delivery of innovative services for Queenslanders.

This month I would like to recognise the professionalism and expertise of staff in a number of areas:

* Radiation and Nuclear Sciences staff, who provided on-site 24 hour monitoring and sample gamma spectrometry analysis capability at the Port of Brisbane during the recent visit of the USS Ronald Reagan.

* Cathy Hurst, CISSU staff and the FSS Public Health Property Point staff for their successful roll-out of the new Pathology Generic Systems Interface. This interface has the capability to reduce errors and create efficiencies in workflows for FSS and Pathology Queensland staff.

* The Public Health Microbiology team who co-authored a paper which was subsequently featured in ProMED, allowing the paper and the investigative techniques used to have a global reach.

* The Public Health Virology team who have successfully collaborated with Metro South Public Health Unit, and Brisbane City Council, on the Zika Mozzie Seeker project. More information about this project is below.

Additionally, many of our staff have attended professional development activities in recent months, as attendees and presenters. Some staff even bring home souvenirs. If you'd like to see a giant representation of the element (35) Bromide, visit the library for a first hand tour.
Staff publications


Colmant, A.M.G. [et al...] (2017) **Discovery of new orbiviruses and totivirus from Anopheles mosquitoes in Eastern Australia.** Archives of Virology, 7 August.


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New research projects

**The forensic toxicology of the synthetic cannabinoid AB-CHMINACA** – Principal Investigator: Andrew Griffiths, Forensic Toxicology.

**Qualitative and quantitative analysis of Δ9-THC and several major cannabinoids in preserved blood specimens** – Principal Investigator: Julie Bergeon, Forensic Toxicology.

**Prevalence of air embolism in trauma related deaths** – Principal Investigator: Dr Beng Beng Ong, Forensic Pathology.
Staff presentations
Please let us know if you have collaborated or prepared a paper for, or presented
at a conference or meeting recently


Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, The Honourable Cameron Dick announces new strategy to drive Queensland's health and medical research

The Queensland Advancing Health Research 2026 strategy is a vision for healthier Queenslanders through research informed healthcare and will be realised by taking actions to achieve the five underpinning strategic objectives.

As the next step, the Department of Health will lead an implementation planning process for the strategy. An advisory committee comprising representatives of relevant partners will be established to help guide this process and provide input to assist the Department. The Department of Health welcomes comment on the strategy. These can be made to the Health Innovation, Investment and Research Office by email HIIRO@health.qld.gov.au

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Predatory publishing

There are many reputable, high quality, peer reviewed open access publishers. However, researchers should be vigilant when selecting an outlet to avoid predatory and unethical publications. Signs that a publisher may be engaging in unethical behaviours include:

* hidden fees and charges
* excessive email invitations to submit articles and to be on editorial boards
* author agreements stripping authors of all rights to their research
* websites or publications of poor quality with editorial errors
* the sales pitch not matching the reality

Publishers who operate in these ways do not provide any of the value added services offered by more legitimate publishers, such as a thorough review process and marketing. In more serious cases, unethical publishers may also strip authors of all rights to their research and solicit funds. To avoid being caught out:

* check the publisher websites and author guidelines research the publisher and consider contacting editorial board members
* carefully read any contracts and agreements and seek advice if uncertain
* ask questions of the publisher about the review process and any fees or charges
* ask questions of colleagues and supervisors about the publication

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Resources

Think.Check.Submit has a useful checklist for assessing journals.

Source: Copyright © University of New South Wales [accessed 26 May 2017]

https://www.library.unsw.edu.au/research/publishing-and-sharing-your-research/predatory-publishing
4th Wednesday of each month from 12.30pm to 1.15pm

Next presentation is 25 October - 'Demystifying the MPhil and PhD journey: A clinicians experience' - Dr Clare Burns.

Video conference will commence promptly at 12:30 pm. Please dial in 5 minutes prior.

Register to attend via Survey Monkey link in Mozilla Firefox
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DFNX6J9

Video conference dial in to be confirmed.

The 11th eResearch Australasia Conference will be held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, 16-20 October 2017. The conference will explore how information and communication technologies help researchers to collaborate, collect, manage, share, process, analyse, store, find, understand and re-use information. Workshops such as Research Integrity and Ethics in the Cloud will be offered on 16-17 October.

See the full program here https://conference.eresearch.edu.au/2017-program/

July 2017 edition here: Forensic Science Research Digest July 17

BLISS is an annual one day symposium for life science early career researchers, to be held this year on 24 November 2017 at the iconic Translational Research Institute on the PA Hospital campus. It is a great opportunity to network with more than 200 local EMCRs with over 15 institutions represented from Greater Brisbane area. 2017 themes include Infectious disease and superbugs, Medical Science, Sustaining the Earth, and Fundamentals of Life. Plenary speaker is NHMRC director, Professor Anne Kelso.

Free lunch too! To register and see the program go to www.bliss2017.org
ProMED - the Program for Monitoring Emerging Diseases - is an Internet-based reporting system dedicated to rapid global dissemination of information on outbreaks of infectious diseases and acute exposures to toxins that affect human health, including those in animals and in plants grown for food or animal feed. ProMED mail provides up-to-date and reliable news about threats to human, animal, and food plant health around the world. On 29 August 2017, this well respected network featured a paper co-authored by members of our Public Health Microbiology team, UQ, DAF and Queensland Treasury about the Shiga toxin producing E.coli (STEC) outbreak at the EKKA in 2013.


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**PH Virology collaboration wins award**

Zika mozzie seeker project is one of Australia’s first health-based citizen science projects, which gives the public a chance to be directly involved in scientific research. Over the summer period households in the Southern metro area of Brisbane set up egg traps to collect mosquito eggs. These eggs were then sent to Queensland Health where Forensic and Scientific Services conducted a world-first method of DNA screening to determine the species of mosquito. This project recently won the Metro South Board Chair QSuper Excellence Award and has been nominated for a 2017 Premier’s Awards for Excellence.

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**Information for staff presentation at external events**

The attached document outlines FSS requirements for staff presenting at external events. If you have any questions after reading the document please speak to your Managing Scientist.

Requirements for presenting at external events