



## ULTRA

### The University of Queensland's cLinical TRials cApability

**Randomised Controlled Trials (RCTs) are an important component of the healthcare system as they provide gold standard, robust evidence about the comparative effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of interventions. Evidence from RCTs transforms healthcare, shapes decisions about healthcare expenditure, and most importantly, improves the health of the population.**

Traditional RCTs are typically expensive, have long timelines, often fail to recruit, and take too long to translate their results into clinical practice. Innovation in trials is urgently needed.

#### Harnessing recent learnings

The impact of innovation in RCT design and conduct has never been so evident than during the COVID-19 pandemic. By employing innovative trial designs, RCTs during the pandemic have delivered rapid outcomes with immediate impact on patient care. Locking this learning into the University of Queensland's investigator led trials will lead to effective treatments being accessible sooner.

The ULTRA program has been created by the University to build capability and capacity in innovative trial design, conduct, analysis and translation. Our vision for ULTRA is to create a world leading interdisciplinary team focused on innovation in clinical trials that leads to more rapid results and improved patient outcomes.

The program's interdisciplinary team of methodological specialists will lead and collaborate to generate an end-to-end pipeline from 'ideation' through to 'close-out' and translation of investigator led innovative RCTs.

#### Our Partners

##### Australian Clinical Trials Alliance (ACTA):

Key national peak body supporting and representing networks of clinician researchers conducting investigator-led clinical trials, maintaining clinical quality registries, and supporting clinical trial coordinating centres in Australia.

##### Children's Health Queensland (CHQ):

A specialist state-wide hospital and health service dedicated to caring for our children and young people. The Division of Child and Youth Community Health Services directly manage the integrated community hub, the Yarrabilba Family and Community Place delivering a broad range of health, education and social services for children and families. CYCHS will continue to contribute by facilitating collaborative opportunities

and developing promotion and prevention initiatives in communities with high levels of vulnerability. CHQ has also recently partnered with UQ to develop an interdisciplinary, student-led allied health clinic informed by research (The Healthy Families project).

##### Health Translation Queensland (HTQ):

HTQ brings together many of Queensland's universities, research institutes, health and hospital services, CSIRO's Australian e-Health Research Centre and Queensland Health with the aim of accelerating translation of research into practice. Supporting clinical trials capability in Queensland is a strategic priority for HTQ and its partners.

**Metro North Health (MNH):** Australia's largest public healthcare provider (serving 1 million population) and includes Queensland's largest hospital (RBWH). Greater clinical trial capacity and participation is a key component of MNH's Strategic Plan, MN32 Roadmap and MNH's Research Strategy.

**Metro South Health (MSH):** A research-active hospital and health service, MSH is a major provider of public healthcare services serving a culturally and linguistically diverse population of 1.2 million people (23% of Queensland's population). MSH is a recognised leader in Digital Health, providing the largest digitalised health service in Australia, and incorporates the Translational Research Institute (TRI) providing state-of-the-art specialist facilities.

**Mater Health:** A research-active HHS serving 500,000 with the highest volume of births in Queensland, and largest neonatal ICU in the southern hemisphere. Mater Health hosts tertiary referral in gynae-oncology, epilepsy, intellectual disability and youth and adolescent mental health. It has large outreach clinics and specialised services for vulnerable populations such as refugee populations, degenerative dementia and urban indigenous expectant mothers.

#### Further Queries

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## Facts at a Glance

Through the Vice-Chancellor's **Health Research Accelerator (HERA)** initiative, the University of Queensland (UQ) is investing in a new health and medical research model and capabilities to address the most pressing health and medical research challenges of our time.



**\$50M**

UQ commitment to the  
HERA Programs to recruit  
outstanding researchers



**115+**

UQ researchers and  
collaborations



**75+**

Partner organisations  
involved in one or more  
HERA program



**9**

UQ Faculties and Institutes  
contributing expertise



**7**

HERA programs of  
Research and Innovation

