

Gold Coast Health

Research and Transformation

2023 Awardees AWARDS

The strategic goal of the Gold Coast Health Research and Transformation awards is to recognise, reward, and thereby encourage excellence in impactful research or transformation activity by Gold Coast Health staff.

Research Award categories have been chosen with reference to the [Research Strategy](#), to stimulate excellence and align with national directions in research, for example the increasing focus on service and translation activities. The awards aim to support a growing research culture at Gold Coast Health and are an opportunity to identify what we value in research.

The Health System Transformation Award is new for Gold Coast Health and represents our [Strategic Plan 2020-2024](#) objective to drive future-focused change. The award aims to support a growing transformation and innovation culture at Gold Coast Health.

Winners in the seven award categories were recognised at an awards presentation held as part of the 2023 Gold Coast Health Future Focus Research, Innovation and Transformation Showcase held on 22 November 2023.

Awards were presented by Gold Coast Health Executive Director, Strategy, Transformation, Major Capital and Digital, Sandip Kumar and representatives from sponsor organisations, Menzies Health Institute Queensland | Griffith University, Bond University, Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct, Cognizant Technology Solutions, Amazon Web Services Australia, and UiPath.



Gold Coast Health Research and Transformation Awards 2023



Dr. Peter Snelling

Staff Specialist, Emergency Medicine
Gold Coast Health and Griffith University
PhD Candidate

2023 Awardee

RHD Student Award

Award Sponsor



Dr. Peter Snelling (centre) with Sandip Kumar, Executive Director, Strategy, Transformation, Major Capital and Digital, Gold Coast Health and Prof. Julia Crilly representing Menzies Health Institute Queensland.

Contribution to Research

Dr Snelling commenced his PhD in 2019 on the topic of 'Ultrasound for the diagnosis of paediatric distal forearm fractures'. Since then, he has successfully obtained around \$330k of competitive grant funding for the project, including a HIRO scholarship and Emergency Medicine Foundation funding.

The body of work has included a prospective diagnostic study, learning curve based on secondary analysis, two cohort studies reporting novel ultrasound signs, and a world-first randomised controlled trial. This has led to numerous publications in highly ranked journals, including the findings of the RCT being published in the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine (top medical journal, IF176) and Annals of Emergency Medicine (top emergency medicine journal, IF6.2) this year.

This work has attracted global attention, with further work planned for translation into regional, remote, and community settings. Based on this research, an online module has been developed to train bone setters in Nigeria using handheld devices. His work has been presented at local, binational, and international conferences, and has featured in various media and social media



Dr. Luke Chan (centre) with (at left) Dr. Justin Keogh, Bond University and Sandip Kumar, Executive Director, Strategy Transformation, Major Capital and Digital, Gold Coast Health

Dr. Luke Chan

Medical Intern, Gold Coast Health

2023 Awardee

Novice / Emerging Researcher of the Year

Award Sponsor



Contribution to Research

Luke is an intern at the Gold Coast University Hospital with a passion for transformative, clinically relevant research in internal medicine and critical care. He has 11 publications, 4 as first author, demonstrating his unwavering commitment to advancing medical knowledge. Most recently, as first author, his forthcoming publication in *Anaesthesia and Intensive Care* delves into the benefits, risks and costs of routine cognitive screening for older patients undergoing major elective surgery, innovatively performing a cost-benefit analysis, which has not previously been published. He has also published in *The Lancet Healthy Longevity Journal* this year, exploring the effect of older age care reform on hospitals and quality of life.

He is committed to innovative research, for example his first author original article in "*Australasian Journal of Dermatology*" was the first to describe hair repigmentation causing prolonged hair colour darkening following cholinesterase inhibitor therapy. Moreover, he led an impactful audit of discharge summaries in the renal department involving an innovative intervention which resulted in significant improvements in the timeliness, overall completion rate and quality of discharge summaries. Given the tremendous success of the intervention, it has been integrated by the director of Renal Services into the official orientation to the department.



Prof. Gerben Keijzers

Senior Staff Specialist Emergency Physician
Adjunct Professor of Emergency Medicine
Department of Emergency Medicine | Division of
Emergency Care Services, Gold Coast Health

2023 Awardee

Researcher of the Year Award

Award Sponsor



Prof. Gerben Keijzers and Prof. Julia Crilly representing Menzies Health Institute Queensland

Contribution to Research

Gerben's research projects and leadership are of great relevance and importance to Gold Coast Health and our patients.

As pillar lead of the Appropriate Emergency Care pillar, his research focuses on identifying low value or detrimental aspects of care. In particular, he has championed research on appropriate testing for pulmonary embolisms, reducing the use IV fluids for alcohol intoxication, avoiding unnecessary cannulation attempts and cannulations, appropriate antibiotic choices, and changing practice in the management of spontaneous pneumothorax – no chest drains!! These latter three projects in particular have saved Gold Coast Health patients from avoidable pain and potential infection.



Elizabeth Wake with (at left) Sandip Kumar, Executive Director, Strategy, Transformation, Major Capital and Digital, Gold Coast Health and Bill Dimeski, Cognizant Technology Solutions

Elizabeth Wake

CNC – Trauma Research Coordinator,
Trauma Service, Gold Coast Health

2023 Awardee

Research Support Award

Awarded by



Contribution to Research

Elizabeth Wake is the Trauma Service Research lead. As the CNC of Trauma research this role, which is embedded within the clinical Trauma Service team, facilitates and embeds research into everyday clinical practice. Liz has worked closely with clinicians to establish a program of trauma research, through the development of a trauma research strategy, which aligns the goals of the health service with the needs of the patients and families affected by trauma injuries.

Liz has coordinated clinical trials of FEISTY, FEISTY Junior and worked closely with the ANZICS team to develop and implement FEISTY II – these studies, dealing with the most severely injured, critically unwell patients involve prospective data collection from severely injured patients with limited ability to consent. There are many governance and ethical requirements which Liz has navigated in her role supporting Principal Investigators. The expertise and support of clinical trials nurses is vital to the success of these types of trials, which Liz's role exemplifies.

Liz is an active member of the Clinical Trials Committee and HREC committee and her commitment to developing her own research skills and that of her peers, has led to her commencing her PhD in trauma follow-up care, which aims to evaluate the care provided to patients and families affected by traumatic injury following discharge from hospital.

Gold Coast Health Allied Health Research Team

2023 Awardees

Research Project Team of the Year

Awarded by



Dr. Laetitia Hattingh (centre left) and Dr. Rachel Wenke (representing the Gold Coast Health Allied Health Research Group) with (at left) Sandip Kumar, Executive Director, Strategy, Transformation, Major Capital and Digital, Gold Coast Health and Shawn Ryder, Amazon Web Services Australia

Contribution to Research

The Gold Coast Health Allied Health Research (AHR) team consists of the AHR Director Dr Rachel Wenke, Conjoint Research Fellow Dr Shelley Roberts, A/Principal Research Fellow Dr Laetitia Hattingh, and Service Improvement Officers Dr Rebecca Angus and Dr Joanne Hilder.

Healthcare organisation engagement in research is associated with improvements in healthcare performance. The AHR team focuses on supporting clinician-driven research through various initiatives such as mentoring and training. The team leads a program of research to improve research capacity and culture.

Over the past 12 months, the multidisciplinary team has undertaken high impact research to advance allied health clinical practices across GCHHS. Their research has had flow-on effects to health professionals nationally and internationally through widespread research dissemination. They are recognised as leaders in allied health research capacity building at national and state levels, delivering workshops and presentations in several forums. The AHR team's collaborative research projects have impacted the allied health workforce, the broader HHS and external partners.

Gold Coast Health Allied Health Research Team 2023 Awardees

Research Project Team of the Year

Alternate photo with entire team



The Allied Health Research Team accepting their award from Sandip Kumar, Executive Director, Strategy, Transformation, Major Capital and Digital. Team from left Jo Hilder, Rebecca Angus, Laetitia Hattingh, Rachel Wenke, Shelley Roberts



Dr. Shanthi Sarma (centre left) and Dr. Grace Branjerdporn (representing the Gold Coast Mood Disorder Service, MHSS) with (at left) Sandip Kumar, Executive Director, Strategy, Transformation, Major Capital and Digital, Gold Coast Health and Craig Rowsell, Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct

Gold Coast Health Mood Disorder Service, Mental Health and Specialist Services

2023 Awardees Translating Research into Practice Award

Awarded by

HEALTH AND KNOWLEDGE PRECINCT
GOLDCOAST.

Contribution to Research

In 2017, the GCH Mood Disorder Service led the Queensland site for the Ketamine for Adult Depression Study (KADS), the world's largest double-blinded RCT on repeated subcutaneous ketamine dosing for treatment-resistant depression. Funded with over \$2 million from the NHMRC, this pioneering initiative enabled GCH consumers to access a novel clinical treatment for severe mental illnesses.

With the trial now complete and primary outcomes published and attracting national media attention, the GCH team is now leading the evaluation of secondary outcomes, including quality of life and clinical results in older age groups. Ketamine is considered the most significant pharmacological breakthrough in depression treatment in over 50 years. Team members have been instrumental in shaping national RANZCP guidelines for ketamine use in depression treatment. Their expertise has been in demand by other Queensland Hospital and Health Services, aiding in the development and delivery of ketamine treatment services.

GCH Mood Disorder Service is Queensland's first public hospital and Australia's second to open a ketamine clinic for treatment-resistant depression. Ketamine is now offered as a routine clinical treatment for depression at the GCH Mood Disorder Service.



Dr. Adam Brand (centre) accepting on behalf of the Gold Coast Health Digital Experience – Integration and Automation Team with (at left) Sandip Kumar, Executive Director, Strategy, Transformation, Major Capital and Digital, Gold Coast Health and Ian Dempsey, UiPath

Gold Coast Health Digital Experience – Integration and Automation Team – Robotic Process Automation

2023 Awardees Health System Transformation Award

Awarded by



Contribution to Health System Transformation

Gold Coast Health's Robotic Process Automation Hub is a cornerstone of our digital transformation and is enhancing operational efficiency. At the heart of our Health Centre of Digital Experience, the Hub employs 'bots' to automate repetitive administrative tasks, freeing our staff to devote more time to patient care. These 'bots' efficiently handle tasks like data entry, appointment creation, and report generation, transforming the way our health service operates.

In its inaugural year, the Automation Hub achieved a significant milestone, delivering over 30,000 hours of administrative efficiency. This efficiency translates into more time for patient interaction and less on administrative duties.

A standout example is the optimisation of appointment confirmations for our bookings centre staff. Previously, a 22-click, two-minute process, it's now streamlined to a 3-click, 20-second task, reducing processing time by 83%. This enhancement greatly minimises patient wait times, a crucial aspect of patient satisfaction and service quality.

The Hub also plays a vital role in improving clinical data management, with the integration of clinical photography to patient records now within just two minutes, ensuring clinicians have immediate access to essential information.

These advancements exemplify our dedication to advancing healthcare through technology, prioritising patient care, and improving the overall efficiency of our services. The Automation Hub not only signifies a leap in operational efficiency but also underscores our resolve to deliver top-tier healthcare in Queensland.

Gold Coast Health Digital Experience – Integration and Automation Team – Robotic Process Automation

2023 Awardees

Health System Transformation Award

Alternate photo with team



The Digital Experience – Integration and Automation Team, Kirsten Hinze, Senior Director, Digital Experience (centre) and Simon Foster, Integration and Automation Manager (right), accepting their award from Sandip Kumar (left), Executive Director, Strategy, Transformation, Major Capital and Digital.