

2023



INSTITUTE FOR
Evidence-Based Healthcare

Institute for Evidence-Based Healthcare Annual Report

In the spirit of reconciliation, Bond University acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which the University campus now stands. The Kombumerri people have walked and cared for this land and wildlife for thousands of years, and their descendants maintain spiritual connection and traditions. We thank them for sharing their cultures, spiritualities and ways of living with the land and wildlife in this place we all now call home. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

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Mission Statement

OUR MISSION

We aim to improve healthcare by better understanding the causes of, and solutions to, gaps between research evidence and its application in practice.

KEY GOALS

To achieve this we:

- Undertake research that more closely aligns evidence and patient care.
- Support and extend collaborations between clinicians and health researchers to achieve higher value care.
- Enable patients and families to make evidence-informed health decisions that are congruent with their values and preferences.
- Lead and facilitate the teaching and learning of evidence-based practice.
- Develop young researchers for research programs in sustainable healthcare.

To deliver these aims, we generate new research evidence on big, neglected problems in healthcare.

Director's Report

The focus for 2023 was the transition of IEBH beyond Prof Paul Glasziou's retirement at the end of 2024.

NEW DIRECTOR

This year we re-advertised the Director role using a recruitment consultant and commenced a search for the Director (having not appointed a Deputy Director last year). We are delighted that Professor Julie Redfern, from Sydney University has accepted the offer as Director, starting 27 May 2024.

Julie is a Professor of Public Health, a current holder of a NHMRC Investigator Grant L2 (NHMRC Elizabeth Blackburn Award for Health Services), a practicing Physiotherapist, leads the Engagement and Co-Design Research (ECHO) team in the School of Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Health, and is a Professorial Fellow at the George Institute for Global Health. Her research interests include: cardiovascular and chronic disease prevention and management; implementation science and translational research; clinical trials; development, testing and implementation of mobile/digital health interventions, and consumer engagement and co-design.

With the delayed start in the Director role, we have used the initial funding for 3 part-time roles:

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1. An experienced academic researcher with good knowledge/connection with funders. To assist with opportunities for other funding, such as with Queensland Government, Professor Michael Kimlin, who has good connections and skills with QLD Health and the other major funders (NHMRC and MRFF) has been undertaking this role on a part-time basis, but will hopefully continue in a 3-year role.

2. Temporary Director of the Evidence-Based Practice Professorial Unit (EBPPU) at the Gold Coast University Hospital

With Professor Henry's retirement at the end of 2022, Prof Glasziou is filling his role, and will continue at least until 2024. The EBPPU is vital to Bond's relationship with the Gold Coast Health surface, and to the long-term funds for IEBH.

3. Business development - for implementing the commercialisation plan of the Systematic Review Accelerator tools

In 2022, Chatsworth Associates (led by Andrew Maxwell) completed a commercialisation plan for our SRA tools. Their clear and high quality advice suggested we repackage the "search tools" and then market these for the larger organisations undertaking systematic reviews. IEBH have been working on repackaging the software, and also aim to hire someone with the necessary marketing and commercial skills. This work continued during 2023.

GRANT SUBMISSIONS

We have submitted several major grants this year (each \$2Million+) - one NHMRC CRE, two MRFF grants, and two investigator grants. Though it scored well, the CRE was not funded, but we resubmitted in November 2023.



STAFFING CHANGES FOR 2023

1. Professor Michael Kimlin has joined IEBH on a 12-month contract, 2 days per week, to help with grants, mentoring and external opportunities.
2. Assistant Professor Sharon Sanders is working 2 days at the EBP Professorial Unit at the Gold Coast Hospital, and run several well-attended workshops for infectious diseases and the Allied Health departments.
3. Mina Bakhit - a Post-doc on the CREMARC CRE on antibiotic stewardship, is working 0.8 with HSM as lead for public health teaching, and may continue longer term.
4. HSM will be advertising a Business Manager position. IEBH will contribute 1 day per week for 12 months to get assistance on the SRA commercialisation and External Engagement.
5. Kazi Rahman - an infectious disease epidemiologist has started with the MHI team and is working with CREMARC and others.

The long term aim is to have increased HSM posts affiliated with IEBH, and to increase non-grant funds, especially from commercialisation for the SRA tools.

TELEHEALTH IMPACT

The uptake of telehealth by Australians has been considerable, representing 17.2% of all consultations in 2022. By provider, in 2022, telehealth consultations represented: 21.9% of all GP consultations, 13.7% of specialist consultations, 27.1% of mental health consultations, 28.3% of nurse practitioner consultations and 14.5% of allied health consultations. In October 2020, IEBH was contracted by the then-Department of Health (now known as the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care), to complete a review of the evidence for the effectiveness, safety and economic impacts of the provision of primary and allied healthcare via telehealth. The Institute completed the review in February 2021 and since then, over two years of additional evidence on the effectiveness and safety of telehealth has been published. In 2023, the team completed 2 new reports which is now available on the government's website:

- Scott AM, Atkins T, Bakhit M, Clark J, Byambasuren O, Glasziou P. (2023). [Final Report: Telehealth Work Package A: Systematic Review and Evidence Syntheses: Telehealth in primary and allied health care.](#) Commissioned by: Dept of Health and Aged Care, Australia.
- Scott AM, Atkins T, Bakhit M, Clark J, Byambasuren O, Glasziou P. (2023) [Final Report: Telehealth Work Package B: Systematic Review and Evidence Syntheses: Telehealth in specialist care setting.](#) Commissioned by: Dept of Health and Aged Care, Australia.

Director
Professor Paul Glasziou AO

Our Research

Our research focus assists health systems to provide care that is patient-centred and informed by evidence and enables patients to make decisions that are congruent with their values, preferences and circumstances.



ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

which currently leads to over 30,000 avoidable deaths per year in both Europe and the USA, threatening elective surgery, and a resurgence of the bacterial diseases of the 19th century.



OVERDIAGNOSIS

Overdiagnosis: which has led to massive increase in the apparent prevalence of many diseases through definition change and overdetection, causing harm and rising healthcare costs.



NEGLECTED NON-PHARMACEUTICAL TREATMENTS

Neglected non-pharmaceutical treatments: which are often as effective and as safe, or safer than their pharmaceutical cousins, but are poorly described, poorly “marketed”, and therefore, little used.



WASTE IN MEDICAL RESEARCH

Waste in Medical Research: is estimated to cost > \$100 billion per year from avoidable design flaws, non-publication and poor reporting, resulting in >85% avoidable waste challenges. And to our philanthropic, industry and community partners who supported and collaborated with us across all areas of our endeavours this past year, we offer our sincere appreciation for your continued trust and support.

Research Outputs

In 2023, the Institute had >100 publications, including research articles, government reports, opinion pieces etc.

RESEARCH ARTICLES

1. Tuballa, A., Connell, D., Smith, M., Dowsett, C., O'Neill, H., & Albarqouni, L. (2023). Introduction of allergenic food to infants and allergic and autoimmune conditions: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *BMJ EBM*.
2. Baillie, E. J., Merlo, G., Biezen, R., Boaitay, K. P., et al. (2023). Diagnosis and management of acute infections during telehealth consultations in Australian general practice: a qualitative study. *BJGP open*.
3. English, C. J., Jones, M., Lohning, A. E., et al. (2023). Associations between healthy food groups and platelet-activating factor, lipoprotein-associated phospholipase A2 and C-reactive protein: a cross-sectional study. *European J Nutr*, 63(2), 445-460.
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7. Kahan, B. C., Hall, S. S., Beller, E. M., et al. (2023). Consensus Statement for Protocols of Factorial Randomized Trials: Extension of the SPIRIT 2013 Statement. *JAMA network open*, 6(12), e2346121.
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9. Sanders, S. L., Glasziou, P. P., & Byambasuren, O. (2023). Clinical trials and their impact on policy during COVID-19: a review. *Wellcome Open Res*.
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Grants and Funding

The Institute has a number of avenues of funding which contributes to our research efforts. Team members are also involved in a number of projects in non-funded grants as Chief Investigators.

NHMRC INVESTIGATOR GRANTS

- Investigator Leadership Fellowship: Professor Paul Glasziou AO - Neglected Problems in Health Care: \$2,701,595.00 (1/1/2020-31/12/2024)
- Investigator Research Fellowship: Prof Tammy Hoffmann OAM - Using shared decision making to improve the appropriateness of healthcare for individuals and the system: \$649,175 (1/1/2019- 31/3/2025)
- NHMRC Investigator Emerging Leadership Grant (5 years) - Dr. Loai Albarqouni: Optimising the uptake of effective underused non-drug evidence-based interventions in primary care: \$650,740 (1/01/2022- 31/12/2026)

NHMRC CENTRES FOR RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

- Wiser Healthcare: Better value for all Australians: \$2,500,000 (3/1/2022 - 31/12/2026) in collaboration with University of Sydney (lead investigator), Monash University and University of Wollongong
- Wiser Woundcare: Investing in High Volume, High Risk Woundcare Centre of Research Excellence: \$2,500,000 (1/1/2021 - 31/12/2025)
- Centre of Research Excellence in Minimising Antibiotic Resistance in the Community (CRE-MARC): \$2,499,728 (27/11/2018 - 31/10/2024)

NHMRC PARTNERSHIP CENTRE

Partnership Centre: Partnership Centre for Health System Sustainability; \$5,250,00 (1/7/2017 - 31/07/2023)

OTHER

- GCHHS EBPUnt: Extension Conjoint Program; \$1,000,000 (1/01/2021 - 30/06/2026)
- Heart Foundation - Dr. Loai Albarqouni: A novel strategy for improving the prescription of effective non-drug interventions for the prevention and management of cardiovascular disease in primary care - the 'e-HANDI': a codesign and feasibility trial.: \$75,000 (1/04/2023- 31/03/2024)
- 2023 HSM Early Career Researcher Seed Grant: Dr Mina Bakhit - A mixed-methods study of general practitioners' current knowledge, awareness, and practices around clinical prediction rules in Australian general practice
- MRFF Primary Health Care Digital Innovations - Dr Oyuka Byambasuren CI: The NOTUS trial (NON-pharmacological Treatment for chronic low back pain USING digital health technology); \$1,614,405 (1/01/2023-31/12/2027)

Highlights

In 2023, the staff of the Institute continued to uphold their status as world-class leaders in their respective disciplines, garnering recognition as exemplified below.

GLOBAL RECOGNITION

Clarivate Highly Cited Researchers 2023

Professor Paul Glasziou AO has been named among the top 1% of researchers worldwide for the 6th year running. To make this prestigious list researchers must have demonstrated significant and broad influence in their field(s) of research. Each researcher selected has authored multiple Highly Cited Papers™ which rank in the top 1% by citations for their field(s) and publication year in the Web of Science™ over the past decade. However, citation activity is not the sole selection indicator. A preliminary list based on citation activity is then refined using qualitative analysis and expert judgement.

Congratulations Paul! Your consistent presence in the top 1% of global researchers, excelling across multiple fields, reaffirms your exceptional and diverse contributions to the academic landscape.

Stanford University World Top 2% Scientists

An update of Stanford University's list of the top 2 percent of most-cited scientists ranks academics based on how frequently their work is cited by other scholars. It takes into account the individual's entire career as well as their one-year impact.

IEBH team members who made the list in the career, as well as the one-year impact category, were:

- Professor Paul Glasziou OA
- Professor Tammy Hoffmann OAM
- Vale Professor Chris Del Mar AM
- Associate Professor Elaine Beller
- Associate Professor Mark Jones
- Honorary Adjunct Professor David Henry
- Honorary Adjunct Assistant Professor Ray Moynihan
- Dr Hilda Bastian (PhD graduate 2020)

IEBH team members who made the list in the one-year impact category were:

- Assistant Professor Anna Mae Scott
- Assistant Professor Loai Albarqouni
- Research Enhancement Manager Justin Clark
- Honorary Adjunct Associate Professor Rae Thomas
- John Rathbone (PhD graduate 2017)



AWARDS

Throughout this year, our team members have been honoured with an array of awards, highlighting their exceptional dedication, innovation, and outstanding contributions in their respective fields.

- Professor Tammy Hoffmann OAM: Vice Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence Award
- Assistant Professor Mina Bakhit: Vice Chancellor's Early Career Research Excellence Award
- Dr Oyuka Byambasuren: Best Research Poster award at Research, Innovation and Discovery ME/CFS and Long COVID International Conference
- Dr Eman Abukmail: People's choice award at 3MT competition, Bond University
- Kwame Peprah Boaitey: Best first-time presenter award at the 2023 Australasian Association for Academic Primary Care (AAAPC)
- Professor Paul Glasziou AO, Assistant Professor Loai Albarqouni and collaborators from the Wiser Healthcare group was named as ACTA Trial of the Year finalist.



Workshops

During 2023 the Institute hosted a number of face-to-face as well as online workshops on topics such as evidence-based practice, the 2weekSR process, and the use of automation tools to improve the speed of conducting, create efficient search strategies and improve the efficiency of screening studies for systematic reviews.

EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE

The [Evidence-Based Practice Professorial Unit \(EBPPU\)](#) at the Gold Coast Hospital hosted 9 face-to-face workshops on Evidence-Based Practice for >100 Gold Coast Hospital and Health Services Staff. The departments include:

- Mental Health
- Infectious Diseases
- Allied Health.

SYSTEMATIC REVIEW ACCELERATOR (SRA) TOOLS

In 2023, a total of 33 online workshops were conducted, focusing on the utilisation of the automation tools (SRA) to enhance the efficiency of various tasks, such as:

1. improving the speed of conducting;
2. creating efficient search strategies; and
3. improving the efficiency of screening studies for systematic reviews were presented.

These workshops attracted significant attention, drawing over 400 participants from various corners of the globe, including Australia, Italy, Germany, the UK, Argentina, Switzerland, the US, and Canada.

2WEEKSR

In June, Assistant Professor Anna Scott presented a two-day face-to-face workshop on the 2weekSR process at the Australian Institute of Health Innovation (AIHI), Macquarie University.

A [2 week systematic review \(2weekSR\)](#) is a full systematic review (SR) done to a high methodological standard following all the normal systematic review processes, completed in a vastly shortened time frame. This workshop provided guidance on how to complete a SR in approximately two work weeks, covering the planning required, team needed, processes involved, and the Systematic Review Automation (SRA) tools used.

FULL DAY FACE-TO FACE OXFORD

During September a full-day workshop teaching research skills was held at the University of Oxford. The workshop was presented by Justin Clark, Research Enhancement Manager at IEBH. It taught researchers from academic institutions from across the UK, how to use the Systematic Review Accelerator (SRA). The SRA is a suite of research tools built at IEBH that can substantially reduce the time taken to conduct an evidence synthesis. The workshop was an excellent way to showcase Bond's research to other institutions around the world.

Other Activities

CONTRACTS

The Institute continues to work on external contracts and tenders. Both as invited expert specialists and tender submissions. Some of these include:

- WHO
- Agency for Clinical Innovation
- Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care.

WISER HEALTHCARE

On 16-17 October 2023, the Institute hosted the annual National Wisser Healthcare meeting at Bond University. Over 40 researchers, early career researchers, and PhD students attended with >25 presentations across the 2 days. The next meeting will be held in Sydney in 2024.

WORLD EBHC DAY

Ambassador for the 2023 World EBHC Day which is held 20 October each year. The 2023 campaign focused on Evidence and Global Health Equity.

WONCA

The 2023 WONCA World Conference was held in Sydney from 26-29 October 2023. A total of 4434 delegates walked the halls of Sydney's International Convention Centre with more than 850 presentations, seven keynote addresses, and 58 topic areas covered. Australian doctors were especially well represented at the 50th anniversary of the famous conference with 2857 attendees.

Several IEBH team members presented at the conference:

- Dr Eman Abukmail: Exploring individuals' perceptions and acceptability of a 'wait and see' approach for managing self-limiting illnesses: A qualitative study.
- Dr Mina Bakhit: Exploring general practitioners' perception of the value of natural history information and their awareness and use of guidelines' resources to support antibiotic prescribing for self-limiting infections: a qualitative study in Australian general practice.
- Dr Ali Davidson: 1) What helps and hinders using non-drug interventions to manage chronic conditions in primary care? An overview of reviews; and 2) Patients' experiences of interprofessional collaborative practice: An integrative review.
- Dr Oyuka Byambasuren: 1) Impact of COVID-19 vaccination on long COVID: a systematic review; and 2) Lived experience of long COVID patients and perspectives of general practitioners in Australia: qualitative studies.
- Dr Michelle Guppy: Panel discussion on the management of chronic kidney disease and the use of ageing kidney charts as a management tool.



GOLDNET RESEARCH NETWORK

In 2023, the GoldNet Research Network focused on "closing the research loop" and selected topics and speakers that align this for various events (1 online journal club, 2 face-to-face networking events).

REPORTING GUIDELINES WEBINAR

In September the Australasian EQUATOR Centre in collaboration with AUS-RN presented a webinar on how to: 1) write the key sections of a research article efficiently and effectively; 2) using reporting guidelines such as PRISMA, CONSORT, and STROBE to guide the writing task, assist publication and improve the impact of your research; and 3) respond to and provide constructive peer review.

JOURNAL CLUBS/SKILLS SESSIONS

- Facilitated 2 Journal Clubs for the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Services Staff.
- Facilitated 12 Journal Clubs and 9 Skills Sessions for the IEBH team (face-to-face as well as online).

PHD

PhD graduates

- Dr Leila Cusack
- Dr Christoph Schnelle.

PhD submission

- Rebecca Sims

SYSTEMATIC REVIEW ACCELERATOR

It has been another successful year for the SRA. There have been 25,000 users and over 200,000 interactions (event counts) with the SRA in the last six months. Solid progress has been made with the upgrade to the new, improved, version of the SRA, which will have a beta launch early in 2024. Workshops have been very successful with large numbers of attendees, with a new and improved suite of workshops planned for next year. In exciting news, there are ongoing collaborations with multiple organisations to increase the usability and applicability of the SRA. These collaborations are with the Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care in Germany, the University of Leicester in the UK, and the University of Queensland. These collaborations will improve SRA support for Health Technology Assessments, provide high-quality meta-analysis software, and potentially incorporate large language models (AI) into the SRA.

IEBH Staff, HDR Students and Collaborators

The Institute is home to a diverse multidisciplinary team, consisting of world-renowned researchers, dedicated research assistants, professional staff and HDR students, all working collaboratively to achieve their goals.

STAFF

Professors

Paul Glasziou AO
Tammy Hoffmann OAM
Michael Kimlin

Associate Professor

Mark Jones

Assistant Professors

Loai Albarqouni
Chrissy Erueti
Anna Mae Scott
Sharon Sanders

Postdoctoral Research Fellows

Mina Bakhit
Oyuka Byambasuren
Alexandra Davidson

Research Assistants

Tiffany Atkins
Caroline Dowsett
Libby Gibson
Hannah Greenwood
Madeleen van der Merwe

Research Automation Support

Matt Carter
Connor Forbes
Irene Priya Jose
Tian Liang

Information Specialists

Justin Clark
Liz Dooley

Research Administration

Iris Gerke
Melanie Vermeulen

HONORARY ADJUNCTS

Adjunct Professor David Henry
Adjunct Associate Professor Elaine Beller
Adjunct Associate Professor Rae Thomas
Adjunct Associate Professor Claudia Dobler
Adjunct Associate Professor Sue Phillips
Adjunct Associate Professor Magnolia Cardona
Adjunct Assistant Professor Ray Moynihan
Adjunct Assistant Professor Paulina Stehlik
Adjunct Assistant Professor Zoe Michaleff

HDR STUDENTS

Eman Abukmail
Michelle Guppy
Sujeewa Palagama
Elaine Beller
Justin Clark
Leila Cusack
Christoph Schnelle
Rebecca Sims
Ann Bryant
Rhonda Morton
Dominique Jones
Kwame Peprah Boaitey
Hannah Greenwood



OUR PARTNERS

- Wisser Healthcare
- Preventing Overdiagnosis
- Cochrane Australia
- ISEHC
- GoldNet Research
- The Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine, University of Oxford
- EQUATOR
- AUS-RN
- ANZ-GRIN
- REWARD Alliance
- University of Sydney
- University of Wollongong
- Monash University
- University of Queensland
- Macquarie University
- Therapeutic Guidelines
- Gold Coast Hospital and Health Services
- Australian Research Council
- Queensland Government
- Education Queensland
- NHMRC
- Queensland Regional Health Collaborative
- The Sax Institute
- BESSI Behavioural, Environmental, Social and Systems Interventions (for pandemic preparedness)

Advisory Board

The advisory board of the Institute convenes twice a year in April and October. Its primary aim is to offer high-level strategic guidance to the Institute Director, focusing on research and engagement, evidence synthesis, education and philanthropy.

The role of each member includes, but is not limited to:

1. Provide advice and recommendations to the Institute Director on national and international priority areas impacting the Institute's operations, current strategic plan, specifically in the areas of
 - a. Research and engagement opportunities,
 - b. Policy agencies, partnerships and alliances,
 - c. Philanthropy and education,
 - d. Patient and consumer engagement
2. Contribute to the development and review of the Institutes Strategic Plan, every three years.
3. Provide advice on enhancing the Institute's research, funding opportunities and stakeholder engagement.
4. Risk Management



From L to R: Professor Paul Glasziou AO, Dr Peter Brooks, Dr Virginia Barbour, Professor Nick Zwar and Mr Andrew Calder

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

- Professor Paul Glasziou AO: Director Institute for Evidence-Based Healthcare, Bond University
- Dr Peter Brooks: Centre for Health Policy - School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne
- Professor Nick Zwar: Executive Dean Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine, Bond University
- Andrew Calder: Director Office of Research Services, Bond University
- Dr Virginia Barbour: Editor-in-Chief MJA and Director of Open Access Australasia
- Catherine Marks: Vice President Engagement, Bond University
- Greg Mullins: Head of Policy Research Australia
- Ms Jessica Toleman, Director, Non-Admitted Reform Program, Healthcare Purchasing and System Performance Division (HPSP)
- Assistant Professor Chrissy Erueti: Institute Manager

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