

February 2020

## LATEST NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

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### TOP STORIES

#### **Race to develop coronavirus vaccine**

The University of Queensland [has been asked](#) to develop a vaccine for the recent coronavirus outbreak at unprecedented speed, using new technology. The [Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations \(CEPI\)](#) has requested the University use its recently developed rapid response technology to develop a new vaccine, which could be available worldwide in as little as six months. The key to the speedy development of this potential vaccine was the 'molecular clamp' technology, invented by UQ scientists and patented by UniQuest. Current advice for the UQ community regarding the coronavirus is available [here](#).

#### **Top students flock to UQ**

The University of Queensland [sent out 3071 offers](#) to students on 15 January, bringing the total number so far to nearly 8700. Nearly 56 per cent of year 12 students in the state with an OP between 1 and 5 made UQ their first preference.

#### **UQ's \$206.5 million investment in new campus precincts and a city hub**

A 'student-village' precinct, integrated health and fitness centre and a new Brisbane CBD hub [have been given the green light](#) as part of a \$206.5 million investment by The University of Queensland. The projects combined will create 300 jobs during construction and more than 60 ongoing roles, while enabling Brisbane to continue to attract the best and brightest students and academics from home and around the world.

### STUDENTS ACHIEVEMENTS AND TEACHING & LEARNING

- Five future engineering leaders and problem-solvers have become the first to receive [scholarships](#) created by the Andrew N. Liveris Academy for Innovation and Leadership.
- The [Create Change Scholarship Match initiative](#) raised \$5,908,309 in 2019. After matching of UQ funding, the final result for the initiative was \$11,816,619.
- The Australian Government [is offering 40 students up to \\$60,000 each](#) in financial assistance for eligible programs at UQ's Gatton campus.
- University of Queensland graduate and advocate for social justice, Sophie Ryan, has been [named a 2020 Australia-at-large Rhodes Scholar](#).
- A television appearance teaching science was one of many highlights [for Alicia Kirk, who graduated as Valedictorian](#) after completing her Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Chemistry, following a dual degree in Science and Arts.
- Master of Architecture student Peter Reilly's 'Ministry of Native Land Titles' design was one of 150 graduate student projects from more than 45 countries [selected](#) for the Global Grad Show held in Dubai.
- Four UQ undergraduate students are set to pursue their dreams after being named as [2020 New Colombo Plan scholars](#).
- UQ graduate Jack Hill has been [appointed](#) Youth Governor of Queensland for 2020.

- Three PhD candidates were [awarded scholarships](#) to begin research into pressing issues facing Australia's ecotourism industry. The topics, decided on jointly by Ecotourism Australia and UQ, include 'overtourism', low carbon futures and social licence.
- The Australian Government has [offered](#) 40 students up to \$60,000 each in financial assistance for eligible programs at UQ's Gatton campus as part of the Destination Australia scholarship program.
- In 2019, The University of Queensland's Institute of Continuing and TESOL Education (ICTE) delivered an [International Professional Internship for Teachers of English program](#), sponsored by the Chilean Ministry of Education (Mineduc), Programa Inglés Abre Puertas (PIAP), or the English Opens Doors Program.
- Two UQ Pro Bono Centre students have written a law reform submission on behalf of the Brisbane Rape and Incest Survivors Support Centre. The submission dealt with Queensland's consent laws and the excuse of 'mistake of fact' in relation to rape and sexual assault cases. UQ Law's Professor Heather Douglas provided academic supervision to the students.

## **RESEARCH, DISCOVERY AND PARTNERED INNOVATION**

### **Grants and Funding**

- A three-year research project to improve food security for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children [will be funded by a \\$2 million-plus National Health and Medical Research Council grant](#) to UQ's School of Public Health.
- The University of Queensland has been [awarded](#) 19 Australian Research Council grants, receiving more than \$7.7 million in Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) funding.
- The ARC Industrial Transformation Training Centre for Uniquely Australian Foods has received \$3.58 million to [convert](#) traditional Indigenous knowledge into branded products and identify scientific bases for a uniquely Australian food provenance.
- Professor Heather Douglas (School of Law) and Dr Robin Fitzgerald (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences) were awarded \$354,000 in [ARC Discovery Project](#) funding to explore the effectiveness of the non-fatal strangulation criminal offence as a response to domestic violence.
- Dr Satoshi Tanaka will be one of two main investigators on a research project led by Monash University that has received more than \$130,000 in ARC Discovery Project funding. The project will involve studying the skill composition of the Australian workforce, identifying skill shortages and proposing policy changes to the funding of tertiary education.
- Professors Luke Connelly and Stephen Birch are among a group of six researchers across Australia who have received almost \$250,000 in [ARC Discovery Project funding](#) to examine the early effects of two recent Australian Government initiatives to improve children's dental health.
- Tracking the growth of brain cancers non-invasively in real time will forge ahead thanks to a [donation](#) from the Brainchild Foundation to University of Queensland researchers.

## Discoveries

- A process [developed](#) by UQ researchers to produce larger quantities of the Hendra virus therapeutic antibody could be expanded to manufacture treatments for other potentially deadly viruses around the world.
- A new technology to produce safer ‘hybrid’ viruses at high volumes for use in vaccines and diagnostics for mosquito-borne diseases [has been developed](#) at The University of Queensland.
- Some forms of domestic violence double victims’ [risk](#) of depression and anxiety disorders later in life, according UQ research.
- A mutated gene found in people with intellectual disabilities that could be targeted for [treatment has been identified](#) by an international team including UQ researchers.
- Research into the toxin of the world’s only venomous primate, the slow loris, is [shedding light](#) on the potential origins of the allergic qualities of cats.
- Plants that break some of the ‘rules’ of ecology by [adapting](#) in unconventional ways may have a higher chance of surviving climate change, according to researchers from UQ and Trinity College Dublin.
- Australians with melanoma [detected](#) before they turn 40 are more likely to have the cancer on non-sun damaged parts of the body compared to people diagnosed when older, according to UQ research.
- A UQ study has [identified](#) the brain circuits that enable fast recognition of emotions such as anger and happiness, which rapidly detect a potential friend or foe.
- UQ researchers are closer to [understanding](#) the ability of squid to instantly camouflage themselves.
- UQ scientists have provided new [insights](#) into how the tiny brains of mantis shrimp are able to make sense of a breathtaking amount of visual input.
- UQ researchers, Associate Professor Rachel Allavena and Associate Professor Joerg Henning, [investigate](#) the relationship between disease and mortality in South East Queensland koalas.
- A novel immunotherapy [treatment](#) has saved family dog Griffin from a rare type of cancer.
- Dr Rebecca Dunlop has [discovered](#) the noise and presence of boats can disrupt humpback whales’ ability to communicate and socialise, and in some cases reduce their communication range.
- UQ research finds sleep problems, fatigue and attention difficulties in the weeks after a child’s concussion injury could be a sign of reduced brain function and decreased grey matter.
- According to UQ-led research, Australians heading overseas are [ignoring](#) potential health risks out of a desire to escape reality through travel.
- Humans are a step closer to seeing what the world looks like through the eyes of animals, thanks to technology [developed](#) by UQ and University of Exeter researchers.
- Climate change is not being taken into account in the design and management of marine parks, according to [research](#) featuring UQ scientists.
- Australian school students’ poor [performance](#) in mathematics could harm the economy and the next generation’s job prospects, according to UQ Professor Diane Donovan.
- ‘Whoopi’ the manta ray has helped UQ and Murdoch University scientists to study manta rays’ impressive ability to heal.

- Ninety years after Dutch geologists [excavated](#) human fossils in central Java, UQ scientists pinpoint the fossils' age at around 120,000 years.
- UQ researchers have [combined](#) quantum liquids and silicon-chip technology, opening the door to new navigation technologies and improved understanding of the turbulent dynamics of cyclones and other extreme weather.
- According to a UQ-led study, [receiving](#) occupational therapy at home has been found to be effective for people living with dementia.
- UQ monitoring technology to identify potential odour and corrosion hotspots in urban sewerage networks [has been adopted](#) by ASX-listed environmental management technology firm Envirosuite.
- Dr Mickael Mounaix and Dr Joel Carpenter have [found](#) a new way of controlling how light travels through different materials at different times using optical fibres.
- The [protection](#) of Australia's threatened species could be improved if more efficient 'umbrella' species were prioritised for protection, according to UQ research.
- UQ research has [uncovered](#) a way in which cells control the stickiness of a molecular glue that protects connections between brain cells and prevent neurodegeneration.
- Women who experience premature [menopause](#) are significantly more likely to develop multiple chronic conditions.
- Drastic ecosystem interventions like eradicating an unwanted species can sometimes backfire, but University of Queensland-led [modelling](#) may help to avoid these ecological hiccups.
- A collaborative research project including UQ scientists is under way to [identify](#) and measure the effects of environmental drivers on several key Queensland fishery species.
- In an [international partnership](#), The University of Queensland and the Southern University of Science and Technology (SUSTech) in China investigate how the brain functions and the activity of neurons in health and disease.
- Four new species of tropical sharks that use their fins to walk have been [discovered](#) in the waters off northern Australia and New Guinea.
- To better [protect](#) the world's reefs, more than one million high-resolution images from 860 of the world's coral reefs have been made available to scientists by The University of Queensland and ocean conservation non-profit, Underwater Earth.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS**

- More than 50 people connected with UQ received [Australia Day Awards](#).
- UQ's Research Computing Centre director Professor David Abramson [received](#) the 2019 Pearcey Medal lifetime achievement award for his contribution to Australia's information and communications technology industry.
- UQ reaffirmed its position as a leading research institution for science and social sciences, with 28 UQ researchers [named](#) in the prestigious Highly Cited Researchers 2019 list.

- Senior cancer researcher Associate Professor Kristen Radford and clinician-scientist PhD students Mr Adam Briner and Ms Chloe Yap are heading to America with the [support](#) of 2020 Fulbright scholarships.
- Five UQ-based scientists were [handpicked](#) for the Homeward Bound program, and travelled by sea to Antarctica.
- Associate Professor Paul Harpur [addressed the International Labour Organisation](#) – the United Nations agency dedicated to advancing social justice and promoting decent work – on his research concerning disability rights and inclusion in the global job market.

### **ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT**

- The University of Queensland's 2020 ilab Accelerator program [has awarded \\$20,000](#) each to 10 aspiring startups to help them launch.
- The switch has been flicked on one of Queensland's largest behind-the-meter battery storage systems, helping The University of Queensland meet its [renewable energy goals](#).
- A major exhibition by Paris-based Australian artist [Mel O'Callaghan](#), will open at UQ Art Museum on 22 February 2020.
- A series of major exhibitions, commissions and projects by artists and collectives on the theme of 'union' will be [presented](#) at the UQ Art Museum throughout 2020.
- A large-scale, text-based artwork by Brisbane artist [Sam Cranstoun](#) spanning the façade of The UQ Art Museum has been unveiled, providing a thought-provoking statement about how we occupy our cities.
- Dr Boyd Wright is working with the Kiwirrkurra people in Western Australia's Gibson Desert to [investigate](#) the native warrilyu tree to bring its highly nutritious seed to the world's attention.
- UQ Law School co-organised an [In Conversation with Leigh Goodmark event](#) in partnership with Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety Limited (ANROWS).
- UQ [welcomed](#) the community to a new "all-abilities" public playground.
- Participants from the Australia Awards in Indonesia Agriculture Policy – Promoting Competitiveness Short Term Award spent two weeks in Australia attending an [intensive training program](#) delivered by UQ, focusing on strengthening the Indonesian agriculture sector.
- UQ's Institute of Continuing & TESOL Education (ICTE) [hosted](#) participants from Indonesia's Badan Pengkajian Dan Penerapan Teknologi (BPPT) as part of an Industry 4.0 program
- ICTE [collaborated](#) with the Global Hyundai Research Development Centre to deliver a professional customised training program for sports leaders.
- Head of UQ Business School Professor Michael Bruenig hosted BEL and EAIT alumni and friends at a [UQ Alumni Reception](#) in San Francisco. At the reception, UQ's Director of Global Engagement and Entrepreneurship facilitated a fireside chat with two alumni, and guests met with the 2020 UQ Startup Adventure students.

## APPOINTMENTS

- Professor Deborah Terry AO has been [announced](#) as the new University of Queensland Vice-Chancellor and President, commencing on 1 August 2020.
- The University of Queensland [has appointed Dr Jessica Gallagher](#) as UQ's inaugural Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement and Entrepreneurship).
- The University of Queensland [welcomed](#) Associate Professor Sandra Phillips as the new Associate Dean (Indigenous Engagement) for the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.
- The University of Queensland [appointed](#) Associate Professor Maree Toombs as Associate Dean (Indigenous Engagement) to lead reconciliation in the Faculty of Medicine.
- Professor Joanne Tompkins has been [elected](#) a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities for outstanding contribution to the field and Australia's cultural life.
- The University of Queensland has [appointed](#) Professor Peta Ashworth OAM as inaugural director of the Andrew N. Liveris Academy for Innovation and Leadership.

## OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

- University of Queensland Press (UQP) launched its Indigenous Placement Program, a yearly Communications Assistant role, with their first recruited staff member Camsia Mulholland.
- University of Queensland staff and Higher Degree Research students were invited to attend a [career development and networking session](#) hosted by the UQ Women in Business, Economics and Law (BEL) Network.
- The UQ Business School [hosted](#) a workshop and panel discussion that brought together top UQ business academics with the Deputy Director-General for Queensland's Department of Environment and Science.
- UQ Boat Club members combined to win 42 medals – including 19 gold – at the [2020 Queensland State Championship Regatta](#).
- UQ Sports Achievement Scholarship recipient Gabi Simpson will play in the Suncorp Super Netball All-Stars [bushfire relief charity match](#).
- UQ Swim Club members won 17 medals at the 2020 Brisbane Sprint Championships.

## VALE

- **Mr Stephen Wyer**, died 7 November 2019 aged 49. Mr Wyer was a Casual Security Officer working in Properties and Facilities who started at UQ on 29 October 2013.
- **Dr Rosamond Siemon**, died 26 November 2019 aged 98. Dr Siemon was a well-known author and historian who wrote the bestseller *The Mayne Inheritance*, published by the University of Queensland Press in 1997. A UQ Arts graduate and PhD, Dr Siemon worked at the ABC before she was invited by Vice-Chancellor Sir Zelman Cowan to join the UQ staff to start the UQ Alumni Association and become involved with past students.

- **Ms Jessica Richards**, died 9 December 2019, aged 20. Ms Richards was a Bachelor of Veterinary Technology student at UQ's Gatton campus who was killed by the White Island volcano eruption in New Zealand. Professor Nigel Perkins from the UQ School of Veterinary Science described her as a gifted, compassionate, high achieving veterinary technology student with a love for equine science.
- **Professor Peter Swannell**, died 8 January 2020 aged 80. Professor Swannell was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Southern Queensland from 1996-2003.
- **Mr Wilson Gavin**, died 14 January 2020 aged 21. Mr Gavin was an enrolled UQ student and President of the UQ Liberal National Club. He was known widely at UQ for his political activism.
- **Dr James Cameron**, died 18 January 2020 aged 67. Dr Cameron was a UQ medical graduate and one of the nation's most innovative cardiologists who helped pioneer stenting and angioplasty in Australia 35 years ago.
- **Ms Jennifer Worthington**, died 27 January 2020 aged 56. Ms Worthington joined UQ as a Project Officer on 19 March 2012 working within Corporate Operations. In May 2012 Jenny was successful in obtaining the School Manager role within the School of Education and remained in this role up until her passing. Her wise counsel was sought on many matters by staff at all levels of UQ.