

April 2020

LATEST NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

TOP STORIES

'Significant step' in COVID-19 vaccine quest

The University of Queensland research team developing a COVID-19 vaccine made a significant milestone in their fast-tracked research to develop a [vaccine](#) for the coronavirus, COVID-19.

New drug combination could support better cancer treatments

A University of Queensland research team has [identified](#) a promising new drug combination that could significantly help the immune system target cancer cells.

Ancient plant foods discovered in Arnhem Land

A University of Queensland-led study has [discovered](#) the earliest evidence of Homo sapiens' use of plant foods outside of Africa and the Middle East 65,000 years ago.

STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS AND TEACHING & LEARNING

- The [Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience](#) (AIME) will be available to UQ Indigenous students to support them through university, into employment and further education.
- The School of Law's Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot team progressed to the semi-finals of the CI Arb Australia Vis Pre-Moot in Melbourne.
- UQ Law alumnus Mia Williams was recognised in the 2020 Women Lawyers Association of Queensland [Inspo List](#).
- The Institute of Continuing & TESOL Education (ICTE) saw a record-breaking 10,855 [course enrolments](#) across all programs in 2019, and more than 2000 pathway students progressed onto UQ.
- UQ student James Gillespie [established MindTheGap](#) – a comprehensive healthcare directory listing thousands of medical and dental clinics across Australia – to increase transparency in the healthcare industry.

RESEARCH, DISCOVERY AND PARTNERED INNOVATION

Grants and Funding

- A national consortium led by UQ and The University of Western Australia has [secured](#) \$30 million from the Federal Government to help regional communities transition to a sustainable future after their local mines have closed.
- Professor Jimmy Botella and his team have received \$575,000 Australian Government [research funding](#) to address the biggest issue affecting the viability of pineapple farming.

Discoveries

- A UQ study on American internet users has [found](#) Trump supporters are more likely to believe conspiracy theories and hold anti-vaccination views due to Trumps tweets.
- UQ [scientists](#) have discovered a possible link between Parkinson’s disease and a gene impacted by a neurotoxin found in blue-green algae.
- UQ researchers have [identified](#) a major shift in how to treat brain injuries, after rejuvenating immune cells to support the repair process.
- UQ researchers have [developed](#) next generation power technology that could be used as a flexible ‘skin’ over hard surfaces.
- UQ researchers [discovered](#) 23 previously unexplored compounds containing metals such as silver, manganese, zinc, ruthenium and iridium that have antibacterial and antifungal activity.
- A [discovery](#) of stone tools in India has revealed that humans survived and coped with one of the largest volcanic events in human history.
- A collaborative study between UQ and RMIT [found](#) extreme climate change weather events such as bushfires, hailstorms and floods impacted on research production.
- A UQ-led international study has found at least 26 per cent of our oceans [need](#) urgent conservation attention to preserve Earth’s marine biodiversity.
- A UQ study has [debunked](#) century-old theories that having girls or boys ‘runs in families’, proving parents’ genes do not determine their child’s gender and that the sex of offspring is random.
- Young Indigenous people are being [discouraged](#) from seeking medical help due to public assumptions that sexually transmissible infections (STIs) are the result of sexual abuse.
- A global UQ-led study [investigated](#) the prevalence of bullying victimisation during school years and found three in every 10 children are victims.
- UQ researchers [discover](#) that customised immune-blocking medication may be the key to treating patients with motor neurone disease (MND).
- Dr Anthony Romilio [solved](#) a decade’s old mystery surrounding dinosaur footprints on a cave ceiling from clues found in a cupboard under the stairs.
- Researchers have [found](#) using two antibiotics to treat Methicillin-resistant Golden Staph, provides no advantage over using a single antibiotic.
- A UQ study has [found](#) a non-invasive treatment that could maintain or restore the quality of fertility in women.
- UQ researchers offer an [alternative](#) method on how mines can offset their biodiversity to compensate for the impact of development.

Partnered Innovation

- Shane Campbell [collaborates](#) with the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Tropical Weed Research Centre to test the suitability of Splatter gun technology for rangeland weed control.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS

- UQ ranks as Australia's [top university](#) for Agriculture and Forestry, Environmental Sciences and Sports-Related subjects for the second consecutive year in the 2020 QS World University Rankings by Subject.
- Professor Naomi Wray has [received](#) the Elizabeth Blackburn Investigator Grant Award for Leadership in Basic Science from the National Health and Medical Research Council.
- Five researchers from the [Institute of Molecular Bioscience](#) and [Queensland Brain Institute](#) have been nominated for the Queensland Women in STEM prize.
- Post graduate student Alicia Kirk has been [named](#) a 2020 Westpac Future Leaders Scholar and will undertake important research on enzymes.
- Three UQ lecturers who made a compelling crime film to engage students in their psychology course have been named the [Australian University Teachers of the Year](#).
- Dr Kai Du and Associate Professor Renuka Mahadevan from the School of Economics [received](#) a grant from the Academy of Social Sciences for a project on sustainable economic growth and the transformation of industrial structure in China and Australia.
- Associate Professor Paul Harpur received a Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning at the 2020 Australian Awards for University Teaching.
- Professor Tamara Walsh was recognised in the 2020 Women Lawyers Association of Queensland [Inspo List](#).
- The School of Law jumped up in the QS World University Rankings by Subject, improving its position to 39th in the world.
- The UQ Australian Institute for Business and Economics' Centre for Gender Equality in the Workplace has [produced](#) an Employer of Choice for Gender Equality report for the Workplace Gender Equality Agency. The report provides employers with a benchmark for leading practice and publicly recognises their commitment to achieving gender equality in their organisation.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

- The University of Queensland Press has established a [new award](#), named in honour of former Governor General Quentin Bryce that celebrates women's lives or promotes gender equality.
- The School of Law's Australian Centre for Private Law co-presented the [Equity and Trusts in the Digital Economy conference](#), where leading national and international experts from the profession and

academia explored the legal risks, opportunities and protections surrounding modern digital transactions and blockchain technologies.

APPOINTMENTS

- Professor Ian Henderson has been [appointed](#) the new Director of the Institute for Molecular Bioscience.
- Professor Andreas Schloenhardt was appointed an Honorary Professor at the University of Vienna.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

- A double-lung transplant [survivor](#) has defied all odds and beat a deadly bacterial infection with the help of The Prince Charles Hospital (TPCH) and UQ researchers.
- UQ alumnus Andrew N. Liveris AO [welcomed](#) the first 10 members of the Liveris Academy for Innovation and Leadership at a formal dinner.
- UQ Sports Achievement Scholarship recipient Gabi Simpson represented the Australian Diamonds in March's [Suncorp Super Netball All-Stars bushfire relief charity match](#).
- UQ Boat Club members Caitlin Cronin and Ria Thompson were selected in the Australian Rowing team for [2020 World Rowing Cup](#) events.
- UQ Cricket Club won its fourth consecutive [Queensland Premier Cricket Club Championship](#).
- UQ student Ruby Harris has been selected to represent [Australia's Junior Women's Hockey team](#) in a four-match series against Japan.
- UQ Judo Club members Charisma Taylor and Kohyoh Toyoshima won three gold medals at the [ACT International Judo Open](#).
- UQ Swim Club's Paige Leonhardt and Jack Ireland won medals at February's [Para World Series Swimming](#) event in Melbourne.

VALE

- **Emeritus Professor Robert (Bob) Milns AM**, passed away 19 February 2020. Emeritus Professor Milns was a significant former staff member of the School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry, whom the RD Milns Antiquities Museum is named after.
- **His Grace Emeritus Archbishop John Bathersby AO**, was a UQ Senate Member in 1992, passed away 9 March 2020.