

April 2021

LATEST NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

TOP STORIES

UQ celebrates teaching excellence

The winners of the [2020 UQ Awards for Excellence in Teaching and Learning](#) have been announced and celebrated at a ceremony held at Customs House.

UQ microbiologist is Australian University Teacher of the Year

Associate Professor Jack Wang has been announced as the [University Teacher of the Year](#) by Universities Australia.

Australian-first sleep study for children now recruiting

Researchers are calling for parents and kids to be [involved](#) in a national study into early childhood sleeping patterns.

UQ students step into Queensland's first new digital hospital

University of Queensland students are the first cohort to [experience](#) interprofessional practice education and training in Metro North Hospital and Health Service's new Surgical, Treatment and Rehabilitation Service (STARS).

Mapping the 'hidden' eighth continent Zealandia

The 'hidden' continent of Zealandia is being partially mapped, thanks to a deepwater mapping [expedition](#) led by The University of Queensland in collaboration with Schmidt Ocean Institute.

A safe, sustainable future for agriculture

Agriculture has entered a new era where advanced, multidisciplinary sciences are harnessed to meet consumer demands for safe, ethically and sustainably produced foods, according to the [incoming](#) QAAFI director Professor Matthew Morell.

Astronauts test virus-fighting surface coating developed by UQ and Boeing

Astronauts aboard the International Space Station are conducting experiments with an antimicrobial surface coating designed to fight the spread of bacteria and viruses, [developed](#) by UQ and Boeing in a joint research project.

STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS AND TEACHING & LEARNING

- Ellen Derbyshire has [been awarded](#) the BP Commercial Award and named as a finalist in the *Financial Review* Top 100 graduates 2021. Ellen is a Master of Business student in her final year of study.
- QBI apprentice Emma Scott has rapidly become one of the rising stars of the Queensland Brain Institute after being [recognised](#) with several industry accolades.
- 97 per cent of UQ-Ochsner graduates who [participated](#) in the 2021 National Residency Match Program, secured a residency and they are now heading to some of the United States' most prestigious residency programs, including: Ochsner Health, Duke University, Washington University, University of Chicago, Brown University, Dartmouth, Yale University, Stanford University, University of Southern California.
- Students from the Law School's Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court team qualified for the [White & Case Advanced Global Rounds](#) of the competition. The Jessup moot is the world's largest mooting competition, with participants from roughly 700 law schools in 100 countries and jurisdictions.
- Three UQ PhD candidates will receive up to \$120,000 each plus leadership training after being named [2021 Westpac Future Leaders Scholars](#).

- HDR student Michelle Tran has been awarded the prestigious [AHHA Jeff Cheverton Memorial Scholarship](#) to go on industry placement to the Deeble Institute for Health Policy Research, Canberra. Michelle received one of only two scholarships awarded in Australia.
- Following a review of the Faculty of Business, Economics and Law Student Employability Team, two new teams were established – the BEL Career Services Team and the BEL WIL Advisor team. From 2021 onwards, all BEL students will have the opportunity to participate in work integrated learning as part of their program.

RESEARCH, DISCOVERY AND PARTNERED INNOVATION

Grants and Funding

- The Institute for Molecular Bioscience is leading an international project, [funded](#) by CARB-X for \$AU2.9 million, on ‘resuscitating’ old antibiotics to hold off the rise of superbugs.
- Professor Brenda Gannon and colleagues from the Princess Alexandra Hospital, James Cook University and University of Exeter were awarded an Emergency Foundation Grant to study predictions of waiting times in emergency departments (ED). Benefitting from QUEx collaborations, they will use machine learning methods to analyse waiting times in Australia and the UK, and translate results into practice within the ED.
- The Business School has received strategic funding for the accelerated development of the online Master of Business Analytics – a collaborative effort across four faculties: BEL, EAIT, Science and HASS. The focus of the program aligns with significant national and international demand from professionals to up-skill to become data-savvy leaders, skilled in translating data to solve global problems.
- Dr Byungki Kim, Professor Peter Clarkson and Dr Jongwon Park have received a grant from Accounting and Finance Association of Australia and New Zealand (AFAANZ) for a project called “Spillover Effect of Green Bond Issuance on Environmental Performance of Peer Firms: Evidence from Australia”.
- Two successful teams were awarded projects under the AIBE Challenge Fund, supported by a generous donation from alumnus Matt McLennan:
 - Professor Shaun Bond, Dr Khoa Hoang, Dr Ronghong Huang. “What drives equity anomalies? The role of trading costs” (\$32,465).
 - Professor Daniel Zizzo, Dr Alexandros Karakostas. “The straw that breaks the camel’s back: Understanding financial market dynamics” (\$37,580).
- Associate Professor Paul Harpur was awarded two grants; a UQ Global Change Research Network grant to investigate “the next generation of workspaces” in collaboration with Law School colleague Dr Iain Field; and a Disability Royal Commission grant worth \$278,800 to investigate “young people with cognitive disability transitioning to adulthood: experiences of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation” in collaboration with Dr Kathy Ellem from the HABS Faculty.
- In 2020, the School of Music received more than half a million dollars in Research Infrastructure Investment Scheme grants.
- A startup founded by two Sustainable Minerals Institute research students could make monitoring the progress of mine site rehabilitation easier and cheaper. The startup, [Envirometrics.io](#), is one of 12 UQ startups recently awarded \$10,000 equity-free funding through the University’s 2021 Ventures ilab Accelerator program.

Discoveries

- In partnership with KPMG, Professor Nicole Gillespie, Dr Steve Lockey and Dr Caitlin Curtis released the [Trust in Artificial Intelligence: a five country study report](#). The study surveyed more than 6000 people internationally (from Australia, the US, Canada, Germany and the UK) on citizens' trust and attitudes towards AI. Key findings include that citizens have low trust in AI systems but generally 'accept' or 'tolerate' AI, and citizens feel comfortable with some but not all uses of AI at work.
- After decades of study, UQ researchers have [identified](#) a genetic solution to the problem of sorghum lodging and falling down, which affects 10 per cent of sorghum crops each year.
- Public health campaigns that challenge weight stigma and promote body positivity can [boost](#) the health and well-being for people of all body sizes.
- Popular native Australian essential oils including tea tree oil and eucalyptus are being [studied](#) to determine if they better equip chicken embryos and hatchlings to fight disease.
- Traits that allow cancer cells to escape the body's natural defence system and develop into tumours are actually a good indicator to a patient's survival prognosis, [according](#) to UQ researchers.
- Basic clinical information routinely collected as part of standard care can predict outcomes for individual patients with acute spinal cord injuries, [according](#) to UQ researchers.
- A common intrauterine device (IUD) could help preserve fertility and reduce the need for hysterectomies for women suffering endometrial cancer, [according](#) to UQ research.
- Schizophrenia and personality disorders are the most disabling mental health conditions to live with, [according](#) to UQ scientists.
- An [analysis](#) has found deforestation is severely affecting forest bird species in Colombia, home to the greatest number of bird species in the world.
- A [discovery](#) by UQ pain researchers may allow some future cancer patients, including children with leukaemia, to avoid their chemotherapy's worst and most debilitating side effects.
- New research has [revealed](#) a potential link between pollen from certain grass species and respiratory health issues such as asthma and hay fever.
- A combination of preventive treatments reduced tooth decay has [improved](#) quality of life for more than 200 Indigenous Australian children living in remote north Queensland.
- Researchers have struck quantum gold – and created a new word – by [enlisting](#) machine learning to efficiently navigate a 20-dimensional quantum treasure map.
- Women are largely being excluded from decisions about conservation and natural resources, with potentially detrimental effects on conservation efforts globally, [according](#) to research.
- COVID-19 conspiracy theorists are more concerned about their own health and less concerned about the health of others, [according](#) to a UQ-led study.
- An international collaboration, co-led by UQ researchers, has [identified](#) an attractive therapeutic drug target for neurodegenerative disorders such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease.
- Wild pigs are often maligned as ecosystem destroyers, but a UQ study has [found](#) they also cultivate biodiverse rainforests in their native habitats.
- A DJ-turned-researcher at UQ has used her knowledge of cool beats to [understand](#) brain networks and hearing in baby fish.
- Gene editing technology will play a vital role in climate-proofing future crops to protect global food supplies, [according](#) to UQ scientists.

- Common artificial sweeteners such as saccharine and aspartame could speed up the spread of antibiotic resistance, [according](#) to UQ research.
- UQ researchers have [confirmed](#) a link between depression and stomach ulcers, in the world's largest study of genetic factors in peptic ulcer disease.
- As Dr Anthony Romilio examined a 4600-year-old Egyptian painting, the artwork [revealed](#) a now globally extinct goose.
- An 'immuno-storm chip' [developed](#) by UQ researchers could diagnose cancer and COVID-19 patients at risk of a potentially lethal reaction.
- A UQ-led study has [found](#) a subtype of asthma in adults may cause higher susceptibility to influenza and could result in dangerous flu mutations.
- Institute for Molecular Bioscience researchers are [exploring](#) new frontiers in the fight against childhood brain cancer.
- Institute for Molecular Bioscience researchers are carrying out genome sequencing to [provide](#) clues as to why jellyfish venoms are so deadly.
- Regular exercise can improve brain function and may protect against dementia in middle-aged and older adults, [according](#) to UQ research.
- A new report by Associate Professor Haitham Tuffaha and Professor Stephen Birch demonstrates the return on investment of rural health research trials using analytical frameworks. The [Haitham report](#), *Estimating the Return on Investment of a Randomised Controlled Trial on Telehealth-based Medical Nutrition Intervention in Rural and Regional Australia* was commissioned by the Spinifex Network and uses the Value of Information (VOI) framework.

Partnered Innovation

- A global health organisation and state-of-the-art laboratory at UQ are [collaborating](#) to support the development and evaluation of point-of-care diagnostics for malaria with new custom-made proteins.
- An international collaboration, co-led by UQ researchers, has [identified](#) an attractive therapeutic drug target for neurodegenerative disorders such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease.
- The Business School's [Defence Innovation Bridge](#) project hosted its second 'WhatIf Workshop' as part of a bigger partnership with the Australian Defence Force to build innovation capability faster.
- A \$1.5 million [collaboration](#) between UQ and Indigenous Traditional Owners and Custodians will boost the burgeoning bushfood industry, and create long-lasting Indigenous businesses.
- UQ, ARC Centre of Excellence in Synthetic Biology, the US Department of Energy Joint Genome Institute (JGI), LanzaTech and Novo Nordisk Foundation Center for Biosustainability (DTU Biosustain), are partners in an [international project](#) that uses genes to improve greenhouse gas conversion.
- A [research collaboration](#) between UQ and [Botanix Pharmaceuticals](#) Limited on using synthetic cannabidiol to kill bacteria responsible for gonorrhoea, meningitis and legionnaires disease, could lead to the first new class of antibiotics for resistant bacteria in 60 years.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS

- Professor Tamara Walsh and UQ Pro Bono Centre Director Mandy Shircore were named in the [2021 Women Lawyers Association of Queensland Inspo List](#). The list also included Emeritus Professor Sarah Derrington and UQLS President, student Mia Campbell.

- UQ Conservation scientist [Associate Professor Eve McDonald-Madden](#) has [been recognised](#) by Australia's pre-eminent scientific body, the Australian Academy of Sciences, for her modelling work to protect nature whilst supporting sustainable development.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

- Queenslanders are being asked to “dig deep” in an [Australian-first project](#), with the next “ground-breaking” medicine potentially hiding in their backyard.
- The Faculty hosted its first face-to-face [BEL Dean's Society event](#) in more than a year for BEL's annual and lifetime donors (including alumni and key partners). At the event, the Vice-Chancellor gave a comprehensive address on the challenges facing the sector and an update on how UQ is faring, and Faculty representatives outlined key priorities for the coming year.
- Head of School, Professor Michael Brünig presented at the Future Conversation Parliamentary Briefing on “The Development of New Industries”. The event was hosted between UQ, QUT and Griffith University, and attended by multiple ministers, Members of Parliament and Directors General, as well as senior university representatives.

APPOINTMENTS

- The School of Law [appoints](#) Professor Rick Bigwood as Acting Head of School.
- Professor Andrew Burton-Jones commenced his term as [Chief Editor of Management Information Systems Quarterly](#), a top Business Information Systems journal.
- [Professor Bob McKercher](#) joins the Business School tourism discipline after spending the past 22 years in the School of Hotel and Tourism Management at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Professor McKercher has extensive industry experience working in the Canadian tourism industry as the executive director of a wilderness lodge association that lobbies government to protect nature-based tourism values. He has published over 300 scholarly papers and research reports (20.000 citations, h-index 69 on GS).
- UQ Associate [Professor Bryan Fry](#) has been appointed to a World Health Organisation (WHO) panel of experts investigating life-threatening disease caused by toxins in the bites of venomous snakes.
- Professor Margaret Mayfield [has been appointed a Fellow](#) of the Ecological Society of America.
- Dr Maria Itati Dolhare recently became a Fellow of Advance HE (formerly the Higher Education Academy).

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

- Vital information on how COVID-19 spreads through communities will soon be gleaned from a real-life trial of the UQ-led [Safe Blues program and app](#).
- A team of UQ researchers push for [reform](#) of Australia's *Espionage Act 2018* in effort to protect journalists from prosecution.
- On International Womens' Day, AIBN's Dr Nasim Amiralian wrote [advice](#) she would give to her 16-year-old self, if she could mentor a younger Nasim.
- The Faculty of Business, Economics and Law hosted a [human research ethics drop-in session](#) to support BEL researchers seeking to ask research ethics questions specific to their projects or ethics applications.

- Adjunct Professor Robert (Bob) Wigley launched his new book, [*Born Digital*](#). Much has been written about the various harms technology causes, but *Born Digital* suggests practical solutions based on business experience.
- Associate Professor Ann Black secured a research consultancy with the Human Dignity Trust (UK).
- Emeritus Professor Jennifer Corrin contributed to the World Bank's [Women, Business and the Law 2021 report](#).
- Professor Graeme Orr was cited in the Caribbean Court of Justice, a supranational appeal court, in a case against MPs of the Dominican Labour Party (*Roosevelt Skerit v Antoine Defoe*).
- A unanimous Parliamentary inquiry recommended acceptance of Professor Patrick Parkinson's proposal to pilot a new expert, multidisciplinary tribunal to resolve parenting disputes where litigants cannot afford legal representation. The government had previously allocated \$12.7 million to the project. Professor Parkinson collaborated with Brian Knox SC (formerly the Principal Registrar of the Family Court and then a District Court judge).
- Associate Professor Paul Harpur was invited to speak at the 2021 [TEDxUQ event](#).
- UQ Press signs the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\) Publishers Compact](#).
- At the beginning of 2021, the new internal service department UQ Print was created for all printing, merchandise, and apparel requirements of the University.
- The Business School hosted its first Thought Leadership Series for the year in partnership with KPMG on the topic of "[Navigating the trust challenges of artificial intelligence \(AI\)](#)". Professor Nicole Gillespie and Dr Caitlin Curtis joined industry panellists to discuss how organisations can navigate the ethical challenges associated with AI, based on insights from a new UQ global study.
- Questions about PFAS exposure in Williamtown, Oakey and Katherine will be the subject of a UQ study, with affected residents [invited](#) to participate.
- Six-time Paralympic Swimming medallist Lakeisha Patterson OAM's preparations for the Tokyo Paralympic Games have been [boosted](#) by a UQ Sporting Scholarship.
- 53 [UQ Sporting Scholarships](#) were awarded to 51 student-athletes, including Olympic and Paralympic, hopefuls and representatives for Australian and Queensland sporting teams.
- UQ Cricket Club won the [Queensland Premier Cricket's First Grade Two-Day Premiership \(Cam Battersby Cup\)](#), beating Northern Suburbs at UQ's WEP Harris Oval.
- UQ finished runners-up in the opening Regional Round of the [2021 Aon Uni 7s Series](#). UQ's team featured four students: Isabella Nasser, Natalie Wright, Amber Kimmel, and Lillian Kolb.
- UQ Boat Club members Ria Thompson and Caitlin Cronin were selected in [Australia's 2021 Rowing Team](#) (Women's Quad Scull).
- UQ Rugby Club representative Angus Scott-Young won his [50th Super Rugby cap](#) in the Queensland Reds' 46-14 victory over NSW Waratahs in Round 6 of the competition.
- First-year BEL students were invited to enjoy free pizza, connect with new friends and learn about support services at the [First-Year Festivities event](#).
- Matthew O. Jackson from Stanford University was the guest speaker at the School's annual [Colin Clark Memorial Lecture](#). His lecture focused on the topic "The Economic Consequences and Dynamics of Social Networks". The lecture was held online for the first time in its 30-year history.

VALE

- **Mr Damien Cruickshank**, passed away 11 February 2020. Mr Cruickshank was an enrolled student in UQ College, studying a Tertiary Preparation Program in pre-university Biology, pre-university chemistry, pre-university Mathematics B, Academic English for university study and research.
- **Emeritus Professor Raymond Specht AO**, passed away 13 February 2021. Emeritus Professor Specht was professor of Botany at the University from 1966 until his retirement in 1989, after which he continued to produce many articles and books. As a plant ecologist, Raymond was renowned for his work on plant specimens collected during the Arnhem Land Scientific Expedition of 1948. He is said to have collected some 25 tonnes of specimens which he studiously recorded over the course of the next 14 years, obtaining the Aboriginal names and pharmaceutical uses of the plants he collected.
- **Mrs Cheryl Brugman**, passed away 20 February 2021. Mrs Brugman was a well-loved and respected member of the Student Services team at UQ's Gatton Campus. She was well-known and respected by many of the student leaders and the student community at Gatton through her workshops and learning advice.
- **Mr David Forward**, passed away 19 February 2021. Mr Forward was a valued colleague in our Information Technology Services Division who worked primarily at our Herston campus.
- **Ms Margaret Den Dulk**, passed away 15 March 2021. Ms Den Dulk was a current Bachelor Mathematics student who was close to finishing her studies at UQ.