

Latest News from The University of Queensland

June 2021

Top Stories

Needle-free COVID-19 vaccine shows promise

UQ has [delivered](#) the Hexapro vaccine candidate from the US with the Vaxxas high-density microarray patch (HD-MAP). The University of Texas Hexapro vaccine candidate – delivered via the UQ-developed and Vaxxas-commercialised high-density microarray patch (HD-MAP) – provided protection against COVID-19 disease with a single, pain-free ‘click’ from a pocket-sized applicator.

Drug target pathway could unlock treatments for diabetes, cancer and COVID

Scientists have visualised and [investigated](#) a key molecular pathway that could one day help treat inflammation, diabetes, cancer, infectious diseases and potentially even COVID-19.

QS Rankings

The University of Queensland was ranked 47th globally in the QS World University Rankings 2022, down one place on the previous year.

Pandemic-proofing Australia's education system

Researchers are [urging](#) key decision makers and sector stakeholders to adopt 16 recommendations to help close the educational divide and improve Australia’s treatment of children and young people experiencing disadvantage.

Rediscovering South East Queensland's eucalypt toolbox

South East Queensland’s eucalypt trees can provide everything from medicines to tools, traps and building materials, according to rediscovered records of regional Indigenous knowledge.

Vale Sir Llewellyn Edwards AC

The University of Queensland [paid tribute](#) to one of the most influential figures in the history of the University and the State, the Honourable Sir Llew Edwards AC. Sir Llew, who passed away 26 May 2021, oversaw the University as Chancellor for 16 years from 1993 to 2009.

Students' Achievements and Teaching and Learning

- Law School PhD candidate Shaun Star received the [Australia India Impact Award](#) at the India Australia Business and Community Awards on 14 May. The award recognises an individual's contribution to the Australia-India relationship.
- Three students in Associate Professor Ann Black’s LAWS5189 Islamic Law class took her place at [two Iftar dinners](#), arranged by The Queensland Education and Cultural Foundation (QECF) and Queensland Intercultural Society (QIS), during Ramadan.
- Law School PhD candidate Rebecca Barber wrote a guidance document, [The Powers of the UN General Assembly to Prevent and Respond to Atrocity Crimes](#) for the Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (published in April). The document aims to provide guidance regarding what the General Assembly can do, based on the UN Charter and other sources of international law, as well as the Assembly’s own established practice.
- The UQ MBA program officially launched the Accelerate Your Career program after a successful pilot in 2020. UQ alumnus and Chair of Hutchinson Builders, Scott Hutchinson helped launch the blended learning program, which is designed to accelerate participants towards their career goals by developing a ‘Go to Market’ strategy for their next career move.

- UQ Law School students were runners up in the 2021 [UNSW Private Law Moot](#), a prestigious intervarsity mooting competition. It was UQ's first year participating in the competition.
- Round 6 of the UQ-IITD Academy of Research (UQIDAR) Joint Phd Program is now completed. 44 applicants were shortlisted for interview, 27 offers will be made, with a further 10 applicants on a waitlist (providing applicants meet assessment criteria). An agtech workshop with IITD, UQ and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is scheduled for 15-16 June.

Research, Discover and Partnered Innovation

Grants and Funding

- UQ International Development has secured approximately \$5 million worth of development project contracts to May 2021. Contracts have been secured with funding bodies including Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; ACIAR; NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).
- Dr Heather Stewart, Associate Professor Sarah Kelly and Dr Belinda Wade have secured a \$40,000 grant with the Australia-Korea Foundation (DFAT) to research "Building Resilience in Korean SMEs through digital transformation".

Discoveries

- Researchers investigating a group of microscopic cells have [discovered](#) they can put the brakes on the rapid development of melanoma lesions.
- UQ scientists working to unlock the mysteries Australia's deadly stonefish have made a [discovery](#) which could change how sting victims are treated in the future.
- UQ and Prince Charles Hospital cardiologist Associate Professor Isuru Ranasinghe and UQ Faculty of Medicine's Dr Linh Ngo contributed to a study which found 62.3 per cent of heart attack sufferers in these nations lived a further seven years or more.
- Handling lethal cone snails and tackling deadly viruses and bacteria is all in a day's work for fearless IMB researchers Larisa Labzin, Zeinab Khalil, Himaya Siddihalu Wickrama Hewage and Chloe Yap, who are working tirelessly to fast-track healthcare and medicines.
- Crushed wine bottles and other recycled glass could [replace](#) sand in vital tunnelling supports, cutting construction costs and improving the sustainability of sand mining.
- Public use of parks and reserves increased only slightly during last year's COVID-19 national lockdown despite gyms and sports facilities shutting down, a UQ study [found](#).
- Stay-at-home restrictions implemented around the world in response to the COVID-19 pandemic have been associated with an average 37 per cent reduction in crime across the globe, an [international study](#) has found.
- Using light-emitting corals, fruit flies and powerful microscopy, QBI researchers are researching the effects of anaesthesia on the brain.
- Almost 70 per cent of low-income households aren't claiming up to \$1000 in child dental benefits they are eligible for, [according](#) to UQ and Telethon Kids Institute research.
- Reduced levels of a metabolic hormone known as leptin is linked to poor vaccine antibody responses in the general population, a UQ study has [found](#).

- Scientists are [investigating](#) whether rising global temperatures may lead to more stillbirths, saying further study is needed on the subject as climate change.
- Only one in three adolescents is practising appropriate hand hygiene, a new [global study](#) involving UQ researchers has found.
- Better [designed](#) vaccines for insect-spread viruses like dengue and Zika are likely after researchers discovered models of immature flavivirus particles were originally misinterpreted.
- A UQ researcher is [helping](#) train 'animal-disease detectives' to protect animals and humans from the threat of future pandemics.
- Scientists have visualised and [investigated](#) a key molecular pathway that could one day help treat inflammation, diabetes, cancer, infectious diseases and potentially even COVID-19.
- Sri Lanka is reducing its pesticide-attributable deaths and overall suicide mortality [using](#) UQ research.
- According to UQ research, people are [consuming](#) three to four milligrams of plastic for every 100 grams of rice they eat, with the number jumping to 13 milligrams per serve for instant rice.
- Researchers have been able to [reduce](#) scarring by blocking part of the healing process in research that could make a significant difference for burns and other trauma patients.

Partnered Innovation

- UQ, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, Monash University, and Queensland Health have [developed](#) a technology to manipulate viruses synthetically allowing rapid analysis and mapping of new potential virus variants.
- A study led by Deakin University in collaboration with UQ, Curtin University and others, shows significant [reductions](#) in alcohol-related harm in the three years following the 2016 introduction of trading hour restrictions.
- Dr Cristyn Meath from the Business School helped co-design The Infrastructure CoLab, which launched in May. The project is a collaboration between UQ, Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia and Business Models Inc. The initiative helps support Australia's infrastructure sector to innovate and accelerate the transformation associated with sustainable materials use, improved performance of technologies and the move to circular supply chains.

Achievements and Awards

- The Allen Coral Atlas project, an international research collaboration featuring UQ scientists, is using unprecedented detailed habitat maps of all global coral reefs to [detect](#) reef bleaching anywhere in the world.
- A dengue virus vaccine candidate has passed an important [milestone](#), with promising results in animal model testing providing hope to the 390 million people infected every year.
- Dr Rebecca Ananian-Welsh's work on press freedom was extensively cited in the Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications' [press freedom inquiry](#), published on 19 May. The 22-month inquiry issued its 164-page report with 17 strong recommendations acknowledging that press and free speech are under fire and need protection.
- Dr Mark Deng and Professor Graeme Orr were awarded a UQ Research Stimulus Fellowship to support Dr Deng's continuing work in the Law School on comparative constitution-building in post-conflict societies, with a particular focus on South Sudan.

Entrepreneurship and Engagement

- Cutting-edge innovation in Paralympic sport performance will enter a new era after an [agreement](#) was signed between Paralympics Australia and key Queensland-based sporting and research bodies including The University of Queensland.
- Ventures is continuing to boost the number of entrepreneurs through the current Ventures programs and activities. Below is summary of recent student / alumni achievements:
 - [Ventures ilab startup listed on ASX for \\$21m](#): Audeara (founded by UQ alum, James Fielding) was listed on the Australian Stock Exchange in May 2021. Audeara creates headphones for people with hearing loss by using a combination of advanced audio technology and specialised engineering.
 - Endla: Founder Riley O'Donnell (UQ alum) has been accepted into Y Combinator accelerator, after recently completing the 2021 ilab Accelerator program. His startup Endla is a fit-for-purpose tool that reduces the lifetime cost of drilling completing and operating coal seam gas wells.
 - [Tritium, a pioneer in e-mobility to be listed on NASDAQ](#): Australian electric vehicle charging company, Tritium (co-founded by UQ alumni [Dr. David Finn](#), [James Kennedy](#), and [Dr. Paul Sernia](#)) sealed a merger deal with US company SPAC which will see a \$2 billion NASDAQ listing.
 - [Qld startup GreaseBoss on solving the \\$50 billion dollar problem you never knew existed](#): UQ alumni Peter Hall and Peter Condoleon accepted into Y Combinator accelerator and have raised over \$1M in funding for their Australian machinery startup GreaseBoss.
- UQ Ventures hosted the gen[in] finals (funded by Trade and Investment Queensland) which saw 25 students (selected from more than 200 applications) to pitch their idea. Over the two-day finals program students (aged 14-24) participated in workshops, founder talks, mentoring and a final pitch event. Six teams were announced as winners, all sharing a prize pool of \$15,000.

Appointments

- UQ has [appointed](#) highly regarded Andrew Flannery as Chief Operating Officer (COO).

Other Items of Interest

- GE&E will launch its new Global Development Impact Plan at an event at Customs House on 10 June 2021. The event will also include a panel discussion on "Global Health – Opportunities for Enhanced Resilience to Existing and Emerging Health Threats in the Pacific".
- During National Reconciliation Week (27 May-3 June), UQ [launched](#) a 'UQRAP Network', open to all staff and students, as part of a busy program of campus events and activations.
- The annual UQ Prestigious Scholarship virtual information session was held on 11 May (190 registrations) to provide students with an opportunity to hear about scholarship options from Rhodes Scholarship, Gates Cambridge Scholarship, John Monash Scholarship, Schwarzman Scholars, Australian-American Fulbright Commission, Cambridge Australia Scholarship, Westpac Future Leaders Scholarship, Ramsay Postgraduate Scholarship, and the New Colombo Plan Scholarship.
- The University of Queensland's Centre for Natural Gas (CNG) has been recognised for its work in the energy sphere in regional communities. UQ-CNG Director Professor Andrew Garnett was named the inaugural recipient of the Industry Legacy Award at the Surat Basin Energy Awards - which celebrate the people, businesses and industries that shape the energy sector in regional Queensland.

- UQ CNG has undertaken a significant body of research work in the Surat Basin and surrounding region ranging from engineering to groundwater issues and the social impacts of the natural gas industry, including the development of an online tool by the Centre's Dr Kathy Witt, to measure socio-economic changes in communities.
- UQP have [received](#) the award for Small Publisher of the Year at the 2021 Australian Book Industry Awards.
- UQP's Ellen van Neerven's poetry collection *Throat* won three awards the NSW Premier's Literary Awards: the Kenneth Slessor Poetry Prize, the NSW Multicultural Award and Book of the Year.
- UQP's Mirandi Riwoe's novel *Stone Sky Gold Mountain* has been longlisted for the Miles Franklin Literary Award.
- In the latest episode of [A Grey Matter](#), Professor Gail Robinson discusses how clinical treatment of people with brain injury, diseases and disorders can be informed by neuroscience.
- Carly Stokes lost her Dad to dementia and is running a half-marathon to celebrate his 70th birthday and raise money for [dementia research](#) at QBI.
- Matthew Collard is cycling from Brisbane to Birdsville and will then run in the Simpson Desert Ultra to raise \$20,000 for [QBI dementia research](#).
- In partnership with RAILS, LawRight and the Mt Gravatt Community Centre, the [UQ Pro Bono Centre](#) presented the first workshop in a five-week series: 'Law for Your Community'. The workshops have been designed to upskill leaders within refugee and migrant communities so that they can provide guidance to members of their communities who encounter common legal issues. The series covers tenancy and housing, debts and consumer issues, youth crime, family law and discrimination.
- On 3 June, AIBE and the Centre for Policy Futures hosted the event, [Conversation Series: The Future of Sustainability Solutions](#). Attendees enjoyed an evening of discussion, networking and sustainable principles, where they heard from industry experts on the topics of environmental offsets, sustainability policy, circular economy and more.
- UQ's [Law and the Future of War team](#) presented and were panellists on the [ethics of trusted autonomous systems](#) at the [Accelerating Trusted Autonomous Systems \(TAS\) Symposium](#).
- Associate Professor Gabby Walters spoke at a Queensland Parliament briefing breakfast about the recovery of Queensland's tourism industry and highlighted implications for policy moving forward.
- Dr Cle-Anne Gabriel submitted the 2020 progress report to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME). In the UQ Business School 2020 PRME progress report, they are committing to eight goals by 2030, which correspond to 15 actions by 2023. From April 2021, the core functions of the School's PRME agenda will serve four functional roles: Teaching and Learning; Research; Engagement; and Operations, People and Culture.
- BEL Career Services hosted [UQ Law Week](#) – four days of law-specific events and activities to help students build their employability. Students heard from alumni and esteemed guests, including legal practitioners working in a variety of fields.
- The annual UQ Law Awards were held on 26 May. The awards recognise outstanding student academic achievement and contributions to the pro bono space, as well as the dedication of the School's teaching staff.

UQ Sport

- **Vale:** [Dr. Kerry Larkin](#), Australian Wallabies representative (1958), UQ Half Blue (1954) and UQ Blue (1955) recipient, died on 26 May 2021.

- **Vale:** [Ian Brusasco AO](#), Queensland Rugby representative, UQ Blue (1950) recipient, died on 13 May 2021.
- UQ students Gabi Palm (Bachelor of Psychological Science – Honours) and Abby Andrews (Bachelor of Advanced Finance & Economics – Honours) were selected in the Australian Stingers [Women’s Water Polo team for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics](#).
- UQ Boat Club members Ria Thompson and Caitlin Cronin were selected to represent Australia in the [Women’s Quadruple Scull at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics](#).
- Eve Gath (Bachelors of Mathematics / Computer Science) and Noah Bright (Bachelor of Social Science) were selected to represent [Australia’s Youth Water Polo teams](#) against New Zealand.
- The University of Queensland finished fourth overall in the [2021 Aon Uni 7s Series](#). UQ’s Sidney Taylor was named in the honorary Aon Uni Sevens Dream Team.
- UQ Rugby Club’s Angus Scott-Young, Tate McDermott, Jock Campbell, and Kalani Thomas played in the Queensland Reds’ [Grand Final-winning 2021 Super Rugby AU team](#).
- UQ Rugby Club’s Mac Grealy (Bachelor of Arts) made his [Super Rugby debut for the Queensland Reds](#) against the Blues in Round 4.
- 2014 World Sevens Player of the Year and Rio 2016 Olympic gold medallist, Emilee Cherry (Bachelor of Health, Sport and Physical Education alumna), announced her [Rugby Sevens retirement](#) in May.
- Callum Davies (2021 UQ Sportsman of the Year) and Cara Feain-Ryan (Clem Jones Sporting Scholarship) won the respective Men’s and Women’s feature races at the [2021 UQ Great Court Race](#).

Vale

- **The Honourable Sir Llew Edwards AC**, passed away 26 May 2021. Sir Llew, oversaw the University as Chancellor for 16 years from 1993 to 2009.
- **Mrs Katherine Parsonage**, passed away 10 May 2021. Mrs Parsonage was a current staff member who had worked in various role at UQ for more than 20 years. She worked for in the ISSR, QBI, School of Biomedical Sciences, Physiology and Pharmacology and the Centre for Policy Futures.
- **Mr Sui To “Jason” Cheng**, passed away 3 March 2021. Mr Cheng was enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Linguistics, in Humanities and Social Sciences, and was studying remotely from his home in Hong Kong.
- **Rev Allen Male AM MBE**, passed away 14 April 2021. Reverend Male was a former member of the UQ Senate from 1993-1995.