

Gold Coast Health

Clinician Researcher FELLOWSHIPS

2024 Recipients

The recipients of the 2025 Gold Coast Health Clinician Researcher Fellowships were announced at the Gold Coast Health Research, Innovation and Transformation Showcase held on 20th of March 2025..

The three-year Fellowship program will provide the successful applicants with the opportunity to pursue research, whilst continuing to work clinically, allowing them to develop and hone their research skills while contributing to high quality research needed to improve healthcare delivery.

The key objectives of the Clinician Researcher Fellowships program are to:

- support excellence in research in emerging or early career clinician researchers who are embedded within Gold Coast Health
- promote enhanced opportunities for diverse career pathways by attracting and retaining our emerging or early career clinician researchers
- expand emerging or early career clinician-researcher capacity in a supportive and appropriately supervised, research-enabling environment
- enable capacity building, emerging or early career clinician-researcher mentoring, and the continued development of leadership and supervision capabilities.

Gold Coast Health is committed to setting a future-focussed research agenda which embraces novel approaches to diagnostics and treatment, as well as systematically evaluating our clinical practice and the implementation of new knowledge to deliver world class healthcare.

Congratulations to our 2024 recipients:

Dr. Matthew Percival
Advanced Pharmacist

Dr. Peter Snelling
Senior Staff Specialist in Emergency Medicine

Clinician Researcher Fellowships Program 2024 Recipient



Dr. Matt Percival (right) accepting the certificate from Professor Cindy Shannon AM, Board Chair, Gold Coast Health (left)

Dr Matt Percival

Advanced Pharmacist, Allied Health and Rehabilitation Services

Program of Research

Implementing a collaborative, pharmacist-nurse-led diabetes clinic within the Robina Health Precinct.

Vision for Research Fellowship

Dr Percival's vision is to enhance patient access to evidence-based diabetes treatments through a community-based, pharmacist-nurse-led, patient-centred model of care. This model of care will harness pharmacists' expertise in medication optimization while empowering patients to confidently manage their own health. It aims to improve access to evidence-based medicines and reduce wait times for the diabetes management services.

This aligns to the 2024 - 2028 GCHHS Strategic Plan's vision which also seeks to produce the best health outcomes in Australia. The design of the research program also aligns with the six core values espoused in the Strategic Plan.

Clinician Researcher Fellowships Program 2024 Recipient



Dr. Peter Snelling (left) accepting the certificate from Professor Cindy Shannon AM, Board Chair, Gold Coast Health (right)

Dr. Peter Snelling

Senior Staff Specialists, Emergency Medicine

Program of Research

Minimal interventions for paediatric distal forearm fractures

Vision for Research Fellowship

Dr Snelling's broad research vision is to provide a high-quality evidence base that will improve the delivery of treatment to children and adolescents with distal forearm fractures and benefit both the patient and healthcare system. This will be through the use of minimal interventions for mild fracture types, that are currently routinely managed with plaster casting and fracture clinic follow-up. This vision aligns with the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service (GCHHS) Strategic Plan 2024-2028 in the following ways.

Firstly, by identifying the types of fractures amenable to a wrist splint, these children and adolescents will have the convenience for removal for hygiene and comfort, without compromising their bone healing. This would deliver safe and effective treatment to optimise health outcomes and provide convenience to the family (Future Value). There would also be a focus on increasing health literacy in this field, to empower consumers to actively seek out a wrist splint (Future System).

Secondly, these patients would be immediately discharged from the emergency department and not require any routine follow-up. This would be an innovation that builds the future of care of these patients, not only locally, but could be applied on a global scale (Future Care). Families would not have to attend fracture clinic, which would avoid taking time off school and work. This could also have flow-on effects for children, including First Nations peoples, in regional and remote areas who could avoid having to travel long distances for fracture clinic appointments.

The decrease in outpatient attendances could save the health care system money, which would redirect these resources to other patients and build capacity within the fracture clinics (Future Growth).