



Translating Research into Better Health Outcomes

Research translation in action

Sydney Health Partners has recently awarded funding to the following three collaborative projects, to accelerate the delivery of tangible health research outcomes.

• **The Acute Lower Back Pain Project - Musculoskeletal Stream**

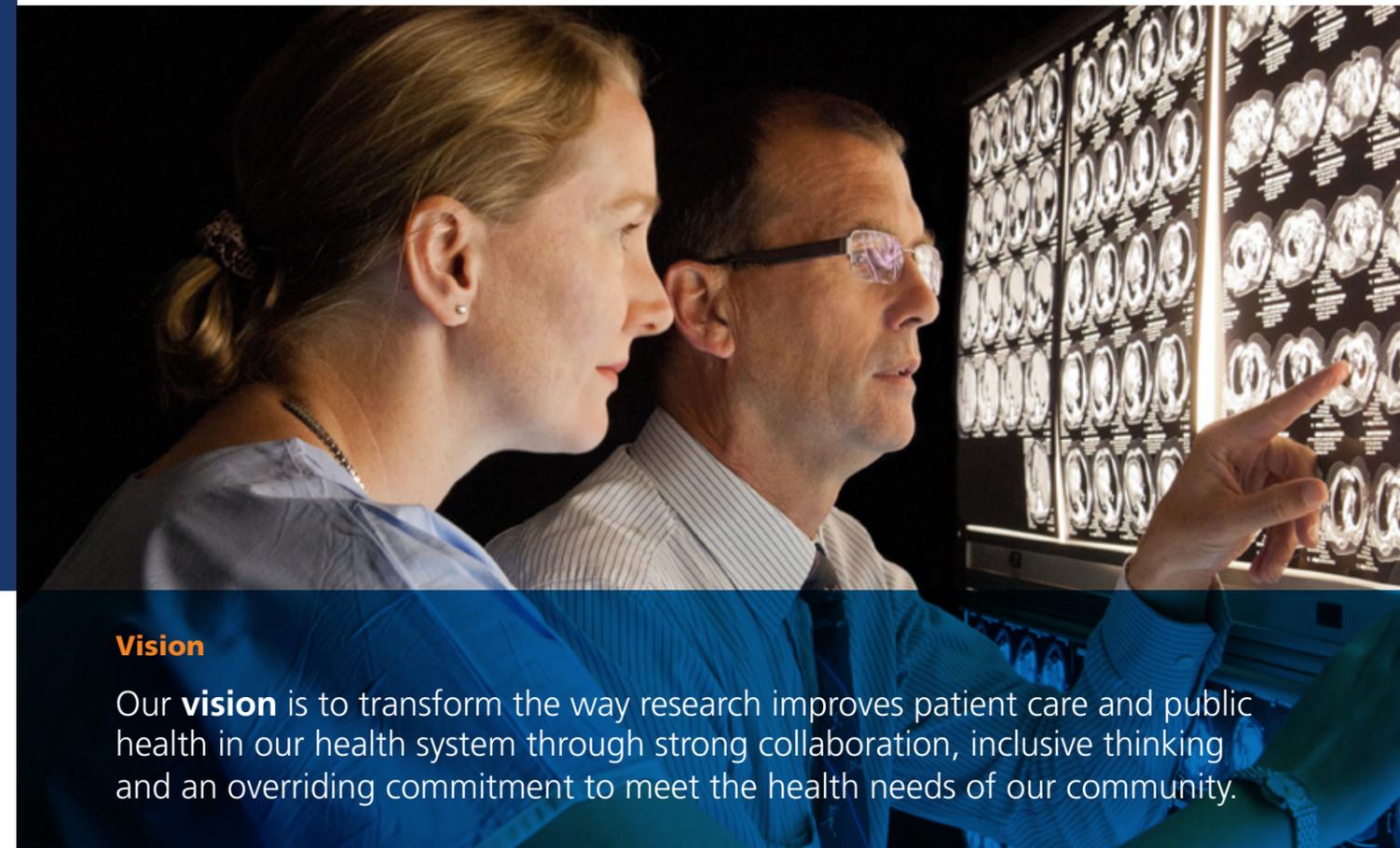
This project aims to improve the management of acute low back pain in emergency departments by implementing and testing an evidence-based model of care in 4 participating hospitals – Royal Prince Alfred, Westmead, Concord and Canterbury. This project will help people with acute lower back pain.

• **The ClinTrial Refer Project - Clinical Trials Stream**

This project will develop a smart phone app that links clinicians, patients and researchers across clinical trials throughout the Partnership. This project will help give patients the opportunity for improved access to emerging therapies and treatments by sharing information on which clinical trials are recruiting participants.

• **The Turning Point Project - Education Stream**

This study is using electronic medical records data to provide personalised clinician education, linked directly to recent clinical encounters. The program will initially focus on two high-profile areas of practice: the management of the deteriorating patient, and infectious disease management. This project will help researchers, clinicians and students.



Vision

Our **vision** is to transform the way research improves patient care and public health in our health system through strong collaboration, inclusive thinking and an overriding commitment to meet the health needs of our community.

Our Partners



What is Sydney Health Partners?

Sydney Health Partners is one of the first four Advanced Health Research and Translation Centres in Australia, recognised by the National Health and Medical Research Council in 2015 for being a world leader in translating research into better health outcomes for our community.

Patient and public benefit is at the core of what we do. Through our Partnership we are committed to fostering cutting edge collaboration and using the outcomes of health and medical research to improve the lives of our patients and community faster and more consistently.

Our Partnership - the first of its kind in New South Wales - is made up of the Sydney, Northern Sydney and Western Sydney Local Health Districts; the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network (Westmead); the University of Sydney; and nine independent medical research institutes.

Our Partnership is founded on the strong leadership of our Local Health Districts and brings together world leading researchers and clinicians who are dedicated to undertaking research that brings benefit to patients in the public health system as quickly as possible.

Through our Partnership we operate a health system that serves a population of 2.7 million people - equal to 10% of the population of Australia. We also reach 50% of NSW through care provided to people from across the state.

Collectively, Sydney Health Partners has a combined budget of \$5.2 billion and a workforce of over 33,000 people. In the period 2011 to 2015 the institutions that make up the Partnership were awarded \$949 million in research funds, with 9,487 publications.

What do we want to achieve?

Improving the health of our community is at the heart of Sydney Health Partners.

Our objectives are to:

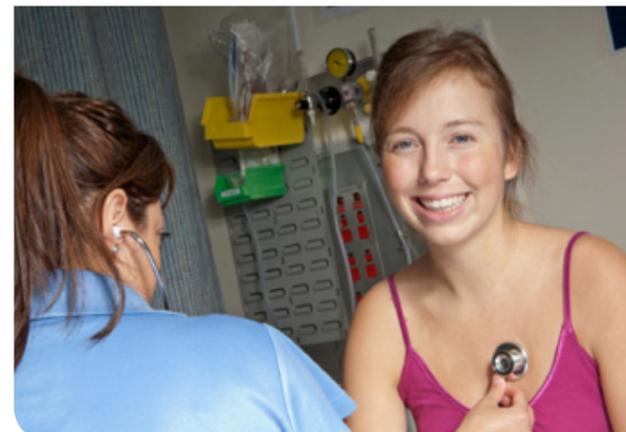
- **Deliver patient and public benefit:** accelerating the transfer of research innovations into health care improvements
- **Achieve operational effectiveness:** supporting a culture that cuts through the barriers to collaborative, efficient working among researchers and clinicians
- **Manage at scale:** demonstrating that a collaborative translational research model can be successfully applied in a large diverse health system
- **Enhance international competitiveness:** supporting the Partners to compete effectively for research resources and talent

What is an Advanced Health Research and Translation Centre?

Advanced Health Research and Translation Centres (AHRTCs) excel in research, the translation of evidence into excellent patient care, and demonstrate a strong research and translation focus in the education of health professionals at an international level.

Sydney Health Partners was recognised by the NHMRC as one of four inaugural Australian AHRTCs in 2015, meeting the following six criteria:

1. **Leadership** in outstanding research- and evidence-based clinical care, including for the most difficult clinical conditions,
2. **Excellence** in innovative biomedical, clinical, public health and health services research,
3. Programs and activities to **accelerate** research findings into health care and ways of bringing health care problems to the researchers
4. Research-infused **education** and training
5. Health professional leaders who ensure that research **knowledge is translated** into policies and practices locally, nationally and internationally
6. Strong **collaboration** amongst the research, translation, patient care and education programs



What is translational research?

Translational research aims to make the findings from health and medical research usable in the treatment of patients in the health system, as quickly as possible.

There are two stages to translational research: the transfer of research from the laboratory to the patient (from bench to bedside); and scaling up the application of the research from the individual patient to the wider health system.

Translational research also involves the integration of different types of health and medical research to help the right treatment reach the right patient, at the right time.

Areas of research focus – thematic streams

Sydney Health Partners' research translation activities are structured around **13 thematic streams**, or areas of research, each led by senior researchers and clinicians from across the Partnership. New thematic streams will be progressively added as the Partnership grows. The current thematic streams comprise seven clinical areas and six cross-cutting themes, with over 40 projects currently underway across these streams.

Who we are helping	What we are trying to achieve	Clinical Stream
People with cancer, health professionals	To improve cancer outcomes for patients through innovative education programs and interventions that address unexplained variations in outcomes.	Cancer
People with chronic cardio-metabolic disease, health services, researchers	To decrease emergency presentations and unplanned admissions for patients with chronic cardio-metabolic disease, and increase research that improves outcomes for these patients.	Cardiometabolic
General public, people with infectious diseases, health services	To reduce the health impacts of infectious diseases and strengthen capacity to respond to emerging infectious diseases of high importance.	Infectious Diseases
People with Hepatitis B and C	To strengthen the identification and management of people with Hepatitis B and C by general practitioners and reduce long term complications among these people including the need for liver transplants.	Liver
People with mental illnesses and/or cognitive decline	To improve the outcomes of people with mental illnesses and/or cognitive decline through better treatment models.	Mental Health & Neurosciences
People with kidney disease	To improve the health outcomes of people with kidney disease.	Renal
People with musculoskeletal disorders	To improve the management of musculoskeletal disorders through identifying evidence practice gaps and recommending best practice management.	Musculoskeletal

Who we are helping	What we are trying to achieve	Cross cutting stream
Researchers, general community	To establish a network of high quality biobank samples readily accessible for research to improve peoples' health outcomes.	Biobanking
Researchers	To make Sydney Health Partners the most productive and "clinical trial friendly" research partnership in Australia.	Clinical Trials
Researchers, clinicians and students	To develop and implement educational strategies which promote the translation of research into policy and practice.	Education
Clinicians, patients, researchers	To build capacity and capability in genomic medicine.	Genomics
Clinicians, patients, researchers	To improve patient care, health service efficiency and address currently unmet research needs by linking patient health data across partner sites.	Informatics
Researchers	To establish efficient, timely and cost-effective policies and procedures to support research operations across partner sites.	Research Enablers