HIRF

HERSTON
IMAGING
RESEARCH
FACILITY

The Herston Imaging Research Facility (HIRF) was established to cater for the growing role of imaging in clinical research. It gives researchers unprecedented access to high-quality imaging equipment and allows the rapid translation of research into clinical practice.

QUT Queensland University of Technology
QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute
The University Of Queensland AUSTRALIA
Queensland Government

WHAT IS HIRF?

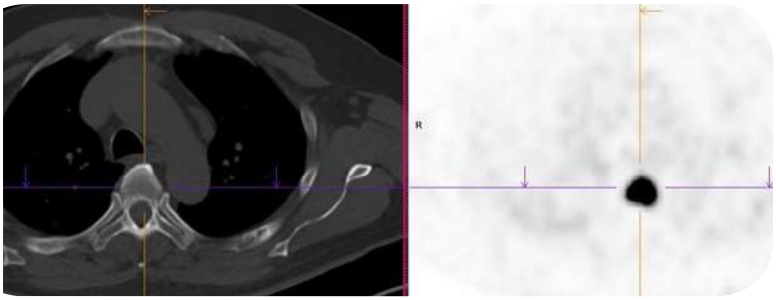
Devoted entirely to research, HIRF is purpose-built to facilitate clinical trials and biomedical research to identify new diagnosis and treatment pathways, and support medical device development.

HIRF is co-located in one of Australia's largest health knowledge hubs, with Queensland's largest tertiary hospital Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH) and other world-leading academic and research partners.

HIRF was formed through an alliance between The University of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute and RBWH through Metro North Hospital and Health Service.

HIRF IMAGING EQUIPMENT

HIRF is home to three state-of-the-art human imaging scanners, setting a new benchmark for clinical imaging in Australia.



PET/MRI

The ground-breaking PET/MRI scanner provides a unique opportunity to obtain simultaneous MRI (3T) and PET, giving high resolution anatomical MRI with dynamic capabilities, fused with high specificity PET with molecular information. PET/MRI has a clinical advantage in detection of soft-tissue diseases, including brain, heart and muscle, and is excellent for early detection, treatment planning and monitoring of cancers, such as prostate. The scanner also offers a reduced radiation dose for participants compared with PET/CT, an advantage for paediatric studies or repeated imaging.

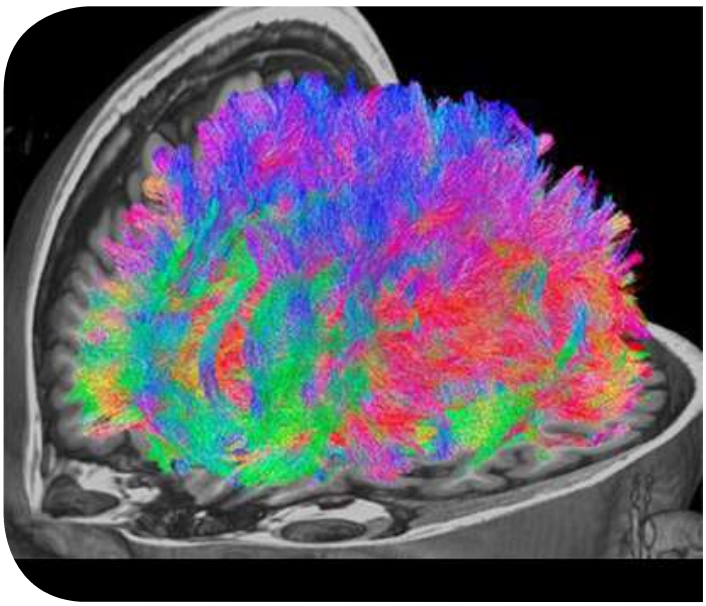
3T PRISMA MRI

MRI generates detailed images of organs, soft tissues and joints. The high strength gradients and uniformity of this scanner is unsurpassed for high-end 3T research scanning. With the ability to image rapidly, the Prisma can be used to push beyond just anatomy, to look at function within the body and brain. The scanner is equipped with a full suite of MRI-compatible equipment to facilitate functional MR imaging. It uses radiofrequency waves and a strong magnetic field to generate detailed images of organs, soft tissues and joints. HIRF has a complete range of receiver coils to cover every area of the body from head to foot.

PET/CT

The Biograph mCT Flow PET/CT scanner provides the finest detail in every organ with a single continuous bed motion. The accurate and reproducible quantification in all dimensions assists with diagnosis, localisation and monitoring of conditions such as brain injury and disorders, heart diseases and cancer.

The scanner is equipped with gating capabilities (respiratory HD chest) and can perform prolonged dynamic PET acquisitions. The 128 slice CT system can be used as a standalone diagnostic CT scanner to perform contrast enhanced imaging. Laser positioning and flat palettes are available for radiation therapy projects, to help with more targeted delivery.



EXPERTISE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

HIRF has experts in nuclear medicine and PET, CT and MRI available to help you get your research protocol up and running. The scan fee includes a qualified radiographer or nuclear medicine scientist to run the scan, as well as a radiologist to complete a safety read for incidental findings. We provide medical support for contrast CT or MRI.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

HIRF offers new opportunities for national and international biotechnology companies to conduct leading research using the latest medical imaging technology within one of Australia's largest health precincts. With the complete range of ancillary coils, HIRF can image any area of the body. This allows us to support a whole range of clinical research areas, including neurology, oncology, psychiatry, psychology, orthopaedics, physiotherapy and theranostics. Research at HIRF can be conducted on healthy and patient cohorts, adults and children above 6-years-old. HIRF collaborates closely with the Queensland Children's Hospital and the Centre for Children's Health Research for paediatric imaging research studies.

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POSITIONED FOR SUCCESS

Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital is one of Australia's largest quaternary referral teaching hospitals with capacity of almost 1000 beds and access to large patient cohorts for clinical trials in many areas of expertise such as dementia and oncology. RBWH also houses the Radiopharmaceutical Centre for Excellence (Q-TRaCE), one of only two Australian public hospitals certified the by Therapeutic Goods Administration to produce radiopharmaceuticals and the only Queensland Health facility with a cyclotron required to produce radioactive tracers. Q-TRaCE manufactures radioactive tracers for facilities throughout Queensland including HIRF.

HIRF has experience in helping to coordinate first-in-man studies, and has a great working relationship with trial coordinators based in the Herston precinct, such as Q-Pharm. The CSIRO image analysis lab is also conveniently located within the Herston precinct.