Awards

Members of the QCPRRC team have been awarded numerous prestigious awards including:

- **Dr Leanne Sakzewski** (PhD Occupational Therapist) has been awarded a prestigious NHMRC Early Career Fellowship (2015-2018) for the project, *Cluster randomised controlled trial to improve translation of intensive high quality upper limb rehabilitation for children with unilateral cerebral palsy*. This award continues her UQ Postdoc Fellowship for Women (2014-2016). Dr Sakzewski was also the recipient of an Ian Potter 2014 Travel Grant to attend the American ACPDM in San Diego, California. Dr Sakzewski continues to foster her links with the NHMRC Research Translation Faculty by attending the NHMRC Research Translation Faculty Symposium in Melbourne in November, 2014.

- **Dr Lee Barber** (PhD, Physiotherapist) was awarded 3 national and 1 international grants as a chief investigator: CIA on a 2014 UWA-UQ Bilateral Research Collaboration Award to validate a freehand 3D ultrasound system for morphological measures of the calf muscle in CP. CIA on Physiotherapy Research Project grant (2014-2016) from Qld Health and Medical Research. CIA for Research Foundation of the CP Alliance grant (2014-2016) to test the efficacy of first intra-muscular injections of Botulinum toxin A on muscle mechanics in young children with cerebral palsy. CIB on a CP International Research Foundation project grant (2014-2016) investigating the relationship between muscle quality, functional capacity and performance through the adult lifespan in CP.

- **Dr Lee Barber** received a prestigious international award, The Mac Keith Press Promising Career Award for his paper “Innovative measures of muscle mechanics and investigation of musculoskeletal outcomes and the effects of interventions for children and adults with cerebral palsy” at the American Academy of Cerebral palsy and Developmental Medicine (AACPDM) in 2015.

- **Dr Koa Whittingham** was awarded a national grant as CIA for “Parenting Acceptance and Commitment Therapy – PACT” from the Research Foundation of the Cerebral Palsy Alliance (December 2014).

- **Dr Koa Whittingham** received a prestigious national award, 2014 Best Paper for Effective Intervention for People Living with Cerebral Palsy, at the Australasian Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine Meeting.

- **Dr Kristie Bell** (PhD, Senior Dietician) was an invited international speaker at the 47th Annual Meeting of The European Society of Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition held in Israel. Dr Bell was awarded an international fellowship to attend the American AACPDM, in San Diego, California, where she presented a workshop and two oral presentations.

- **Mr Jarred Gillett**, Biomechanist, PhD scholar, was awarded a full-time NHMRC scholarship and a Lions Foundation PhD top-up scholarship, for his doctoral program for an RCT of FAST: Functional effects of high intensity strength training in young adults with Cerebral Palsy.
At the major **national biannual conference the Australasian Academy of CP and Developmental Medicine** (March 2014) members of our team won the following awards: (1) best scientific poster (Ms Sarah James); (2) top group of scientific papers (Dr Sakzewski, Dr Koa Whittingham, 2/4) amongst a total of 27 free papers, 10 scientific Posters and 4 invited workshops that were awarded to members of QCPRRC. The 3 invited workshops were: (i) Early natural history of Cerebral Palsy: comprehensive outcomes of the Australian Cerebral Palsy child studies (Presenters: Ros Boyd, Kath Benfer, Kristy Bell, Andrea Coleman). (ii) Move it to improve it: a multi-modal, web-based approach to neurorehabilitation for individuals with cerebral palsy or acquired brain injury (Presenters: Ros Boyd, Louise Mitchell, Sarah James, Melinda Lewis, Stephanie Ross); (iii) Translating research evidence into practice: therapy dosing and contemporary motor learning approaches for children with unilateral Cerebral Palsy (Presenter: Leanne Sakzewski); and 1 pre-conference workshop (iv) Working with infants with Cerebral Palsy - lessons from new research and future possibilities (Presenters: Ros Boyd, Jo George, Andrea Guzzetta).

At the major **annual international conference of the American Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine (AACPDM)** in September 2014, in San Diego, members of the QCPRRC were awarded a total of 22 free papers, 6 scientific Posters and 2 invited workshops and one pre-conference seminar in addition to 4/13 papers nominated for the best paper Gayle Arnold award. The invited instructional courses were: (i) Translating Research Evidence into Practice: Therapy dosing and contemporary motor learning approaches for children with unilateral CP (Presenter: Leanne Sakzewski) and (ii) Nutritional assessment tools for use in children with Cerebral Palsy and similar neurodevelopmental disabilities (Presenter: Kristie Bell). The team was invited to present pre-conference seminar (1/4 awarded): E-rehabilitation – Using virtual reality technologies in rehabilitation for children and adolescents with Cerebral Palsy (Presenters: Ros Boyd, Louise Mitchell, Sarah James, and Stephanie Ross).

**International student travel awards** were achieved by four QCPRRC students achieved to attend the AACPDM in San Diego, Sarah James, Andrea Coleman, Katherine Benfer and Louise Mitchell.

**Ms Katherine Benfer** (PhD Scholar, Speech Pathologist) was awarded a prestigious international student travel award from the University of Queensland in 2013, to undertake her research for her PhD at the Centre for the paralysed in Dhaka, Bangladesh (2013-2014).

**Ms Sarah James** (PhD scholar, Occupational Therapist) was awarded a prestigious international student travel award from the University of Queensland in 2014. Sarah travelled to Canada to visit with international experts in the fields of engagement in therapy (including web-based programs) and acquisition of skills of daily living in children with CP and other disabilities at the Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital & Holland Bloorview Research Institute, The University of Toronto and Department of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy, The University of Toronto.

The QCPRRC secured funding of $2.452M to appoint the **John Hopkins Professor of Paediatric Rehabilitation** for 5 years who will be Clinical Director in the QCPRRC, including funding...
from the Motor Accident Insurance Commission (MAIC, $1M) and Children’s Health Queensland ($1.12M) and the University of Queensland.

- **Top 10 publications for the year in the discipline of Paediatrics** were awarded to 2 QCPRRC journal articles by the American Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine.

- **Professor Boyd** was appointed as a member of the scientific board (1/5 members) of the 5th International Cerebral Palsy conference and EACD (2016) to be held in Stockholm in June, 2016.

- Professor Boyd was invited to participate a **Global Summit on “Early Detection and early neurorehabilitation in CP”** supported by the Balnaves Foundation and organised by the Cerebral Palsy Alliance in Vienna, June, 2014.

- Professor Boyd was awarded the prestigious **Hayden Williams’ Visiting Professorship** for 2015-16 at **Curtin University**, in Perth, Western Australia.

- Professor Boyd was an invited speaker, to the **European Academy of Childhood Disability, Austria**, for two presentations on (i) “Dose, context, density of Upper limb training- what should the therapy pill be?” and (ii) “Multimodal web based training for CP- is the sum greater than the parts”.

- Professor Boyd was an invited speaker at the **Mater Mother’s Day in Brisbane**, 2014 to present on the “State of the Science of Early Detection of Cerebral Palsy” and the “Early Natural history of Cerebral Palsy”.

- **Dr Felicity Brown**, our recently awarded QCMRI PhD Science scholar, (2010-2013), was awarded an **Australian Government’s Endeavour Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarship** for 2015 to undertake postdoctoral research at Harvard University into refugee mental health at the Harvard School of Public Health in the Research Program on Children and Global Adversity. She will explore interventions for resettled refugee youth and families and will gain experience in refugee mental health, cross cultural psychology, and community-based research.

- **Dr Laura Miller** an Occupational therapist, NHMRC scholar, (2011-2014) was conferred her PhD on the topic “Impact of mastery motivation on occupational performance outcomes following upper limb intervention for school-aged children with congenital hemiplegia”, and is now a Senior Lecturer and Head of the Paediatric Occupational Therapy program at the Australian Catholic University, Brisbane.

- **Dr Louise Mitchell**, PhD, a Physiotherapist and APA scholar (2011-2014) was conferred her PhD on the 17 November 2014 on the topic, “Move it to improve it: using a web-based therapy program to increase physical activity in independently ambulant children and adolescents with unilateral cerebral palsy”. Dr Miller is now employed a Principal Planning Officer, Epidemiologist for the Queensland Chief Scientist at Queensland Health.
In 2014, the QCPRRC has had 2 students graduate their PhDs, 1 Masters (MPhil/MBBS), 2 Honours (both H1A).