

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND WELCOME TO THE FIRST RESEARCH DIGEST OF 2026!

As always, the RDGU is here to support you through every step of your research journey. If you require further support with your research, or would like us to deliver specific education or training sessions, please get in [touch](#) - we'd love to hear from you.

Stay tuned for lots of exciting new initiatives and updates coming soon!

RESEARCH CELEBRATIONS ✨



Congratulations to **Professor Lisa Hui** and Team in recently being awarded a \$5 million National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Synergy Grant for their project titled: Defining and overcoming disease drivers in pregnancy to ensure pregnancies are safe and protected. Led by University of Melbourne's Professor Katherine Kedzierska, and a multidisciplinary team of experts will tackle this issue head-on, aiming to better understand immune regulations in major complications of pregnancy to transform detection and treatment.

👉 [Click here for more information.](#)

Welcome to RDGU's newest member!

RDGU is delighted to welcome Dr Catherine Offer as our newest Research Governance Officer. Catherine is a clinical research professional with a PhD in Neuroscience and experience in clinical trial coordination, governance and research quality across academic and hospital settings. Coming to us from Alfred Health, Catherine brings expertise in research compliance and will help to support our researchers in meeting our governance standards. Her commitment to transparent, high-quality research practice will be an asset to RDGU. Please help to welcome Catherine to Northern Health!

NH Research Grants Program 2026 - Expressions of interest are NOW OPEN!

Applications Close: 2nd March 2026
[Please visit our website for further information](#)

*Please read the information on the website carefully and review the **GUIDELINES** prior to applying.*

SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS TO RDGU IMPORTANT REMINDER!

RDGU will no longer accept applications submitted using outdated forms. Please ensure you are using the latest application templates, available on our website under the [Library of Resources](#).

To further support your applications, please ensure you review our newest resource:

[A Practical Guide to Research Document Control](#)

This guide covers:

- Understanding the difference between tracked and clean documents
- Clear and consistent file naming for smoother submissions
- Best practices for managing document versions

This guide is designed to improve clarity, reduce delays, and support compliance throughout the research lifecycle.

RESEARCH EVENTS COMING UP

Research Grand Round - Building Grant Success

Wednesday 18th February
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM - Lunch to follow
Northern Health Epping
NCHER Building, level 1, Lecture Theatre 2
This will be an in-person event only
(Recording will be available following the event).

👉 [Please visit our website for more information](#)

NCTGF Nudge | New Year, Equipment Check

NSQHS Action 1.29 – Safe Environment

“The health service organisation maximises safety and quality of care:

- a. Through the design of the environment*
- b. By maintaining buildings, plant, equipment, utilities, devices and other infrastructure that are fit for purpose.”*

As we kick off the new year, it's a great time to check that all equipment used in your clinical trial is fit for purpose. For studies using trial-specific equipment, or clinical equipment for trial purposes, remember:

- Biomedical engineering certification is required before equipment can be used in a clinical trial.
- Maintenance schedules are managed by Northern Health Engineering and NCHER Operations, know your schedule.
- Early checks support compliance with Action 1.29 and help avoid delays once recruitment starts.

Nudge to action

Planning to use equipment in your study this year?

Connect with Biomedical Engineering (BiomedicalEngineering-TNH@nh.org.au) early to confirm calibration, certification and maintenance schedules are in place.

Hazel Peat Perpetual Charitable Trust - Small Grants Program

Applications now open, closing 5pm 16th February 2026.

Up to \$25,000 available. This grant program will focus on these key areas:

1. Community support and empowerment
2. Wellbeing
3. Education and Skill Development

Only one application per organisation can be submitted.

Please contact NH.Research@nh.org.au if you intend to apply.

 [Click here for more information](#)



NH Publication Highlights

- Crosbie D, McCarthy M, Ghosh A, Hayes B, Suleiman M, Jones D. Medical emergency team calls at end of life in a metropolitan teaching hospital: how preventable are they? *Intern Med J.* 2025 Dec 15. doi: 10.1111/imj.70283. Epub ahead of print. PMID: [41395754](#).
- Cai T, Lu V, Wang J, Suleiman M, Ho P, Lim HY. Impact of ABO blood group on global coagulation assays. *Thromb Res.* 2026 Jan;257:109567. doi: 10.1016/j.thromres.2025.109567. Epub 2025 Dec 17. PMID: [41422600](#).
- Xu ZC, Tan E, Garg M. Unexpected finding in a 17-year-old female undergoing screening colonoscopy. *Lancet Infect Dis.* 2026 Jan;26(1):e75-e76. doi: 10.1016/S1473-3099(25)00621-8. PMID: [41419279](#).
- Dickson S, Rotella JA. A Scoping Review of Benzodiazepine Dosing Regimens for Adults Experiencing Moderate-to-Severe Alcohol Withdrawal Syndrome in the Acute Hospital Setting. *Emerg Med Australas.* 2026 Feb;38(1):e70198. doi: 10.1111/1742-6723.70198. PMID: [41457340](#).

Registrations and Call for Abstracts Now Open for the MACH Aboriginal Health Showcase.

Abstract submissions close 9 February

The MACH Aboriginal Leadership Group invites you to the second [MACH Aboriginal Health Showcase](#) in March 2026. This free event will highlight Aboriginal-led programs and initiatives addressing health priorities across our Community.

The Showcase will be held over two days with the second day designed for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander attendees only with a focus on capability building and networking. Please note that day two will be held in person only.

Dates:

- Monday 23 March (all attendees welcome) 8.30am – 4pm (in person and online)
- Tuesday 24 March (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander attendees only) 9.30am – 2pm (in person only)

Location: Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, 305 Grattan St Melbourne ([see map](#)) and online Cost: Free

 [Register here via Eventbrite](#)

ERM Gets a Fresh New Look

On Tuesday, 13 January 2026, ERM launched a refreshed user interface to improve usability and accessibility. The update introduced cleaner styling, enhanced navigation for faster access to key actions, and a refined toolbar to support more efficient workflows, while also preparing the platform for future enhancements. Preview videos on [New UI Navigation](#) and [New UI Project Creation](#) are available (70 sec + 90 sec videos), and user guides will be updated to reflect these changes. Use the [ERM Login Page](#) to view the new interface. RDGU can be contacted for further information.