

# 2009 Strategic Plan

## Research Centre for Reproductive Health

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The Research Centre for Reproductive Health is a designated research centre within the Robinson Institute. This Strategic Plan should be considered together with that of the Robinson Institute. It is intended to outline specific aims and roles of the Centre in its functioning as a semi-autonomous group within the Institute.

### Research strengths

The Research Centre for Reproductive Health, located at the University of Adelaide, Australia, is a world leader in reproductive health research, innovation and discovery.

The Research Centre for Reproductive Health was established in April 2004, arising from the Reproductive Medicine Unit of the University of Adelaide. RCRH leads Australia and the international community in reproductive biology and reproductive health research, spanning from pre-conception to birth.

The RCRH seeks to make important scientific discoveries and to translate those into practical health and industry outcomes through clinical and commercial interactions. This is achieved by undertaking first-class, cutting edge fundamental and clinical research, and by fostering collaborations between scientists and clinicians in obstetrics, gynaecology, endocrinology and cancer.

RCRH brings together key research program leaders, emerging postdoctoral researchers and talented postgraduate students to assure its continual growth in excellence, depth and profile. It advocates linkages with government, health service providers and industry to maximise impact on reproductive health service and delivery.

### Targeted research areas

- Ovarian and Follicular Function
- Oocyte and Early Embryo Development
- Uterine Biology
- Embryo Implantation and Placental Development
- Male Reproduction
- Reproductive Immunology
- Human and Animal Reproductive Biotechnology
- Nutrition, Environment and Reproduction
- Health and Social Outcomes in Reproduction
- Early Life Programming of Fetal Development and Adult Health
- Menopause
- Infectious diseases of the reproductive and gestational tissues
- Contraception
- Cancers of the Reproductive System

## Organisational Structure



### Directors

Sarah Robertson, Jeremy Thompson

### Operations Committee

The Operations Committee is comprised of the Directors, School Manager and two representatives from the Research Committee.

Role: The role of the Operations Committee is to plan and formulate strategic objectives for the Research Centre and to develop and implement policy and manage the budget to meet those strategic objectives.

*Meets four times annually*

### Research Committee

The research committee is comprised of the Directors, all Research Program Leaders of the Centre, an Early Career Researcher representative and a PhD student representative.

Role: The Research Committee provides a forum for

- reporting to, and consultation of membership by Operations Committee.
- discussion and planning of RCRH activities.
- communication of RCRH research group key research outcomes and membership changes.

*Meets four times annually*

## Strategies for 2009

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Strategies</i>	<i>Outcomes</i>	<i>Key Performance Indicators</i>
<b>1. Outstanding Research Profile</b>			
1.1. To contribute significantly to the wealth of scientific knowledge in reproductive biology and health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide first class research infrastructure, equipment and core facilities by developing a funding program to support bids</li> <li>▪ Attract and retain talented research leaders and staff by identification of potential researchers and advocating to Institute, School and University</li> <li>▪ Attract talented research leaders by ensuring appropriate marketing materials</li> <li>▪ Reward publication in high impact journals through prizes and awards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of publications maintained</li> <li>▪ Increased quality of publications</li> <li>▪ Key researchers attracted and/or retained</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of publications*</li> <li>▪ Number of publications in ranked journals*</li> <li>▪ Number of citations*</li> <li>▪ h-index scores*</li> </ul>
1.2. To increase cross-disciplinary research and funding applications by maximising internal and external collaborative opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Coordinate a Research Leaders Forum to discuss / share research opportunities</li> <li>▪ Establish a Visiting Scholars program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased member awareness of internal collaborative opportunities</li> <li>▪ Increased collaboration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased collaboration between member research groups</li> <li>▪ Increased external collaboration</li> </ul>
1.3. To support researcher career development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Facilitate mentoring of mid career staff</li> <li>▪ Sponsor targeted conferences that provide coordination / speaking opportunities for RCRH researchers</li> <li>▪ Coordinate conference speaking opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Greater opportunities for mid career researchers, leading to enhanced researcher profile</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of Research Fellows</li> <li>▪ Number of invitations to present at meetings</li> <li>▪ Number of awards and prizes</li> <li>▪ Representation on national and international committees</li> </ul>

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Strategies</i>	<i>Outcomes</i>	<i>Key Performance Indicators</i>
1.4. To ensure appropriate marketing strategies to increase the visibility and reputation of the Centre's research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Retain RCRH branding identity</li> <li>▪ Maintain up-to-date website</li> <li>▪ Disseminate research information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased awareness of Centre and its research in the scientific and general community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Website up-to-date</li> <li>▪ Media exposure</li> <li>▪ Exposure at relevant conferences</li> </ul>
<b>2. Quality Staff &amp; Students</b>			
2.1. To attract and support high quality postgraduate students to contribute to research programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Market PhD opportunities</li> <li>▪ Provide travel grants for students</li> <li>▪ Provide opportunities for students to be exposed to commercial endeavours</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased numbers of postgraduate students</li> <li>▪ Increased quality and productivity of postgraduate students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of honours and postgraduate students</li> <li>▪ Number of student contributions to research outputs (publications, conference presentations)</li> </ul>
<b>3. Strong Funding Base</b>			
3.1. To increase competitive grant funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Diversify funding base by recognising and coordinating applications to alternate sources</li> <li>▪ Coordinate a Research Leaders Forum to discuss / share research opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased numbers of grant applications</li> <li>▪ Increased grant income</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maintain 1 NHMRC Program Grant or equivalent</li> <li>▪ Increase number and quality of grant applications</li> <li>▪ Increase ARC grants*</li> <li>▪ Increase NIH grants*</li> </ul>
<b>4. Dynamic Working Environment</b>			
4.1. To ensure efficient business systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Employ a part-time Administrative Officer to coordinate centre activities</li> <li>▪ Maintain the Operations Committee</li> <li>▪ Maintain the Research Committee</li> <li>▪ Coordinate sub-committees as necessary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Centre operations effective</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administrative Officer employed</li> <li>▪ Committees have met at least 3 times annually</li> </ul>
4.2. Adapt the culture to maximise the understanding and utility of support services provided by the Institute, School and University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide relevant information to members</li> <li>▪ Ensure RCRH member representation on Institute and School committees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Greater understanding of the roles of Centres and Institutes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Members accessing services</li> <li>▪ Member satisfaction*</li> </ul>

\*To be measured by Institute