



HUMANS OF THE ROYAL



Professor Lawrie Powell AC

Director of Research Professor Lawrie Powell AC retired on 4 March after a 60-year association with the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.

Professor Powell commenced his time at Royal Brisbane Hospital as a Senior Medical Student in 1958. His passion for medicine grew when he completed clinical training at the hospital, beginning a long-held clinical position as a hepatologist.

Even as his clinical and administrative commitments grew, Professor Powell continued to run regular clinics, delivered classes at the University of Queensland on top of his appointment as Director of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR).

Clinical research has been a life-long passion. Professor Powell has received numerous national and international awards recognising his research contributions, and is considered a leading authority on liver disease and the genetic disorder, haemochromatosis.

In addition to his own research, including over 400 publications, Professor Powell is a strong advocate and supporter of the hospital's research performance. Immediately after retiring as Director of QIMR in 2000, he was invited by then hospital District Manager Dr John Menzies to establish the Director of Research position and research centre.

His pursuit for research excellence attracted a \$20 million contribution to Queensland research from Atlantic Philanthropies founder Chuck Feeney, towards the development of the UQ Centre for Clinical Research (UQCCR) at RBWH.

This turning point in the growth of research at RBWH made way for Professor Powell to establish the Centre for the Advancement of Clinical Research, as well as the Research Advisory Committee which continues to meet regularly, providing expert guidance and advice to the hospital and RBWH Foundation about research.

Professor Lawrie Powell has excelled as a clinician, teacher, researcher, administrator and leader at the hospital and our research projects and facilities stand testament to his contributions over the last seven decades.