OUR STRATEGIC PLAN
2017 - 2021

Changing lives through innovation and excellence
We’re front line innovators: As the only independent medical research institute (MRI) in the Illawarra region of New South Wales, Australia, we support a network of scientists and clinicians.

Our foundation is double-strength: We are a joint initiative of the University of Wollongong (UOW) and the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District (ISLHD).

Giving back is what fuels us: As a not-for-profit registered charity, we’re constantly striving to enhance the health and wellbeing of people living in our local communities.
OUR VISION
Excellence and innovation in health and medical research, supporting better health services, leading to a healthier Illawarra community.

OUR PROCESS
Our researchers span many disciplines and work collectively to understand, diagnose, treat and prevent disease and illness in our community. Our researchers:

- **Discover** the mechanisms and pathways underlying clinical conditions, especially age-related diseases, chronic conditions and mental illness.
- **Improve** the range and effectiveness of clinical treatments, through preventative lifestyle interventions, new drugs and delivery methods, innovative medical devices and implants.
- **Develop** and test new models of health care and population-health based interventions.

OUR APPROACH

**Collaboration**
By combining the academic skills of scientists with the practical insights of clinicians and health professionals.

**Innovation**
By combining a multidisciplinary and translational approach to current and emerging health and medical research.

**Connectedness**
To our communities, partners and other health and medical organisations locally, nationally and internationally.

**Dedication**
To developing the Illawarra into a world-class centre of excellence in health and medical research in partnership with UOW and ISLHD.
Understanding, diagnosing, treating and preventing disease and illness
Strategic priority 1: Enhance our research excellence, innovation and translation.

CREATING IMPACT
- Enhanced research presence both nationally and internationally.
- Increased grant funding to enable world class research that will provide greater collaboration and innovation, as well as dedicated scientific and clinical research.

STRATEGY
- Support and encourage researchers to develop and submit high-quality grant applications
- Investigate additional funding options nationally and internationally
- Provide support and resources to assist researchers in preparation of high-quality peer reviewed publications
- Support and encourage translatable projects by providing funding through IHMRI grants schemes and theme support
- Support investigator-initiated clinical research studies and commercial clinical trials

OUR TARGETS
1. Increase funding from competitive grants and other sources
2. Increase impact of publications
3. Facilitate and support research translation

MEASURING PROGRESS
- Total IHMRI related research income
- Number of high-impact publications by IHMRI affiliated researchers
- Number of clinical studies and commercial trials supported by IHMRI
Strategic priority 2: Develop our people and engage with our partners to improve health and medical research both locally and globally.

CREATING IMPACT
IHMRI becomes a MRI of choice for leading researchers and support staff.

STRATEGY
- Increased engagement with ISLHD and UOW researchers by supporting research project design and grant applications
- Develop programs to support ISLHD researchers in IHMRI laboratories
- Recruit high-performing Research Fellows and Early Career Researchers
- Develop a program for clinical fellowships
- Retain high-performing staff and researchers through career development, mentoring and leadership opportunities
- Target partnership opportunities with industry and government
- Provide training opportunities for researchers in translation and commercialisation

OUR TARGETS
1. Enhance our partnership with UOW and ISLHD
2. Retain and recruit high performing staff and researchers, including clinician researchers
3. Establish opportunities for linkages between industry and researchers

MEASURING PROGRESS
- Number of IHMRI Research Fellows
- Number of UOW / ISLHD collaborative projects
- Number of industry orientated events / engagements
Strategic priority 3: Develop stronger community relationships to enhance understanding, foster support and maximise our impact.

CREATING IMPACT
People will have a greater understanding about the vital work that IHMRI does to enhance health and medical research locally, nationally and internationally

STRATEGY
- Develop a communications strategy to better engage with the community
- Develop a community engagement strategy and program of activities
- Develop a fundraising strategy and foundation

OUR TARGETS
1. Increase IHMRI’s profile locally, nationally and internationally
2. Increase philanthropic donations and support to enhance sustainability

MEASURING PROGRESS
- Number of IHMRI events
- Fundraising income
- Increased website, social media and mainstream media activity
- Increased community awareness