



# QML Newsletter.

June 2003

## \$1 MILLION for Skin Cancer Research



**The Queensland Skin & Cancer Foundation (QSCF) received a \$1 million donation from QML Pathology to assist in the future diagnosis and treatment of skin disease and cancer.**

The donation, to be spread over several years, will be used to fund a number of QSCF initiatives including the establishment of Queensland's first professorial chair in dermatology.

The Foundation will oversee clinical research, specialty clinics and the teaching of dermatology to ensure that Queensland is a world leader in skin disease and skin cancer research and treatment.

The Foundation will also be involved in developing a Queensland Institute of Dermatology (QID) in coming years; an education, research and treatment facility that will be one of the largest of its kind in the southern hemisphere.

QSCF Chairman Dr John Auld said that when the QID is established, it would allow the Foundation to dramatically increase its involvement in research and contribute to the improvement of dermatological services to the people of Queensland.

*"Skin cancer has the third highest incidence of all cancer in Queensland, accounting for 12.8% of cancer related illness. This makes Queensland the skin cancer capital of the world, so it's the best place to establish an institute and conduct vital research that may one day lead to a cure.*

*"Establishing the Chair of Dermatology and the Queensland Institute of Dermatology will ensure that sufferers of skin disease and skin cancer will have greater access to state-of-the-art treatment and facilities.*

*"Key areas of research include non-surgical treatment of non-melanoma skin cancer and drug trials," Dr Auld said.*

*"Overseas companies are already approaching QSCF to conduct research projects into skin disease and cancer for the development of new-age non-surgical treatments.*

*"It's hard to believe that Queensland has never had a Professorial Chair of Dermatology. The future QID at the Princess Alexandra Hospital will enable QSCF to recruit a world-class Chair who will assist medical students, practising dermatologists*

Dr John Auld, QSCF President, accepts the cheque from Stephen Roche, Mayne Group General Manager

*and scientists in finding new ways of dealing with skin cancer," he said.*

*"The QID will complement other Queensland world-class skin cancer projects including the "wet lab" research being conducted at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR)."*

The Chair of Dermatology will be an appointment of the University of Queensland, and will be principally based at the Princess Alexandra Hospital.

The QID would incorporate the professorial unit, the current Department of Dermatology at the PAH and the QSCF.

The QSCF accepted the QML donation at a ceremony held at the Queensland Performing Arts Complex on Friday, May 2 in the presence of the Hon Wendy Edmond, Minister for Health.

The Queensland Skin and Cancer Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation, providing specialised and routine dermatological services. The Queensland branch has been established for more than seven years and is currently based at Greenslopes Hospital.

QML Pathology would like to congratulate the QSCF and look forward to a long and successful association with the Foundation and its members.

*For further information please contact QSCF on (07) 3843 0577.*



The QSCF celebrating the \$1 million donation at a cocktail party hosted by QML Pathology. (l-r) Dr Rob Sinclair, Stephen Roche, Hon. Wendy Edmond MP, Dr John Auld, Dr Lynda Spelman, Dr Brian De'Ambrosis.

## Changes to Medicare Schedule

# MICROBIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FAECES

As you are probably aware there have been significant developments in more sensitive tests designed to assist in the detection of enteric pathogens. QML Pathology is introducing these new tests as a matter of routine.

Reflecting the availability of more sensitive tests, the HIC introduced changes to the Medicare benefit schedule on the 1st of May . These changes affect the ordering and techniques used in the microbiological investigation of enteric infection. Specifically, the HIC no longer supports the use of three complete microbiological stool examinations within any seven day period.

In order to comply with the new HIC requirements, QML is only able to perform bacterial culture and two microscopic examinations in any seven day period. A specific request must be provided for each collection.

The table below indicates a suggested frequency of submission of samples and the tests that may be requested.



<b>SUBMISSION OF STOOL SAMPLE</b>	<b>INDICATED REQUEST MAY INCLUDE</b>
<b>Initial sample</b>	Culture Ova, cysts and parasites Rotavirus or other enteroviruses Clostridium difficile toxin
<b>Second sample</b> (within 7 days)	Ova, cysts and parasites Rotavirus or other enteroviruses Clostridium difficile toxin
<b>Third sample</b> (7 days after initial sample if patient remains symptomatic)	Culture Ova, cysts and parasites Clostridium difficile toxin

*Should you require any further clarification please contact  
Dr David Drummond tel: (07) 3840 4444.*

## Lithium Heparin Tubes for Blood Chromosome Studies

***Please note that Blood Chromosome Studies must be collected in Lithium Heparin tubes without gel.***

These tubes are green capped with a black inner cap. Chromosome analysis involves placing blood in special culture media to stimulate cell division so chromosomes can be analysed. The separating gel is toxic, resulting in poor growth. If the gel is used, a substandard chromosome preparation is obtained, making analysis very difficult. Often the patient's sample requires recollection.

***For further information please contact QML Liaison on (07) 3840 4539.***

## Changes to Medicare Schedule

### FRAGILE X (A) SYNDROME DNA TESTING

The Fragile X (A) syndrome is the most common form of inherited intellectual impairment in humans. As indicated by the name, this type of intellectual impairment involves an X-linked pattern of inheritance. For that reason, it is much more commonly seen in males (XY) than females (XX) because any defect in the male X chromosome is not masked.

The gene associated with Fragile X (A) Syndrome is known as FMR1 and is located at the FRAXA fragile site on the X chromosome. It contains a region of CGG repeats that normally stays between 20-40 range. As the number of repeats increases, the gene becomes unstable, its functioning is disrupted and individuals may begin to exhibit symptoms.

- **NORMAL** individuals show heterogeneity between 6 and 50 copies of the CGG triplet repeat. (The average is 29 repeats) Normal individuals pass on the FMR1 gene without a problem from parent to child.
- **CARRIER** individuals have between 50 and 200 copies of the CGG triplet repeat (premutation range). They will be asymptomatic, however the gene is not stably inherited within this range and can expand from 50 repeats to in excess of 200 repeats within a single generation. These people are at increased risk of having affected children or grandchildren.
- **FRAGILE X (A) SYNDROME** individuals with a full mutation have greater than 200 copies of the CGG triplet repeat.

Since 1997, QML has offered Nucleic Acid Amplification (NAA) or PCR testing for this disorder free of charge. PCR can detect repeat sizes less than 100 and is therefore useful to exclude the condition in the majority of patients. However, if PCR results are equivocal, the technique of Southern Blotting is required.

**As of 1 May 2003, two item numbers, one for NAA test (73300) and the other for confirmatory Southern Blotting (73305) have been included in the Medicare Benefits Schedule. The MBS states that "Prior to ordering these tests (73300 and 73305) the ordering practitioner should ensure the patient has given informed consent. Appropriate genetic counseling should be provided to the patient either by the treating practitioner, a genetic counseling service or by a clinical geneticist on referral. Further counseling may be necessary upon receipt of the test results."**

QML will perform PCR on patients referred for DNA testing of Fragile X (A) syndrome. If the result is inconclusive, Southern Blotting will be performed by the Royal Brisbane Hospital. Genetic counseling is available from the Queensland Genetic Counseling Service on (07) 3636 1686. The description of the MBS items is as follows:

*Detection of Genetic Mutation of the FMR1 gene by nucleic acid amplification (NAA) where:*

- the patient exhibits the specific clinical features of fragile X (A) syndrome, including intellectual disabilities; or*
- the patient has a first or second degree relative with a fragile X (A) mutation-1 or more tests*

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<b>73300</b>	<b>Fee: \$100.00</b>	<b>Benefit: 75% = \$75.00</b>	<b>85% = \$85.00</b>
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*Detection of genetic mutation of the FMR1 gene by Southern Blot where the results in item 73295 are inconclusive.*

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<b>73305</b>	<b>Fee: \$200.00</b>	<b>Benefit: 75% = \$150.00</b>	<b>85% = \$170.00</b>
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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## AMAQ GOLF DAY

Thursday 19 June, 2003

Pacific Golf Club, Carindale

If you are interested in playing, contact the AMAQ on (07) 3872 2267.

## ST ANDREW'S CPD EVENING

"Cardiovascular Medicine CD Rom - Interactive Evening"

Tuesday, 24 June, 2003

St Andrew's Hospital Auditorium

For further information please contact St Andrew's Marketing on (07) 3834 4210.

## AMA INTERNATIONAL HEALTH EXPO

"It's all about your choices.

Your life, your body, your expo."

Showcasing various educational seminars and the latest health products, services, technological advancements and innovations.

Friday 25 July - Sunday 27 July, 2003

10-5pm daily

Brisbane Convention Centre

Please contact the AMAQ on (07) 3872 2221, or visit [www.internationalhealthexpo.com](http://www.internationalhealthexpo.com) for further information.

## ST ANDREW'S BALL

An evening of elegance and revelry to raise funds for vital medical equipment.

Saturday 26 July, 2003

The Royal on the Park

**Cost:** \$95 per head (includes 3 course meal, beer, wine and basic spirits)

**Attire:** Black tie, evening wear.

**RSVP:** 11th July, 2003

Jenny Scott on (07) 3834 4293.

# COLLECTION CENTRE NEWS

## New Collection Centres

**GLADSTONE** (07) 4978 7951

Shop H, The Windmill Centre,  
216 Philip St

Opening Hours:

Mon - Fri 8am - 4:30pm

**MORAYFIELD** (07) 5428 7113

248 Morayfield Rd

Mon - Fri 7.30am - 12pm  
1pm - 4pm

**INGHAM** (07) 4776 0999

Shop 6, Southern Cross Shopping Centre  
1 Authurs St

Mon - Fri 7:30am - 5:30pm

Sat 8am - 11am

## Changes to Opening Hours

**INALA** (07) 3372 7277

The Lilley Centre, 147 Inala Ave

Mon - Fri 7am - 5pm

Sat 8am - 12pm

**WYNNUM** (07) 3396 9881

155 Bay Tce

Mon - Fri 7am - 12:30pm

1pm - 5pm

Sat 7am - 11am

**JIMBOOMBA** (07) 5548 6783

Shop 2, Jimboomba Junction

671 Cusack Lane

Mon - Fri 7:30am - 12:30pm

1pm - 4pm

Sat 8am - 11am

**CALAMVALE** (07) 3711 5943

Unit 5B, Calamvale Village,

Cnr Kameruka St & Beaudesert Rd

Mon - Fri 8am - 12:30pm

1pm - 4:30pm

**KINGSCLIFF** (07) 6674 2288

Shop 4, Kingscliff Village Shopping Centre  
22-26 Pearl St

Mon - Fri 7am - 1pm

1:30pm - 5pm

Sat 8am - 12pm



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