Clive Palmer to chair Griffith Institute for Health and Medical Research Development Board

The Griffith Institute for Health and Medical Research (GIHMR) is pleased to announce Professor Clive Palmer will chair the newly established GIHMR Development Board.

Professor Palmer is Chairman and Founder of Mineralogy Pty Ltd., owner of Gold Coast A-League Soccer Club - Gold Coast United and a life member of the National Party. He also has significant expertise in biotechnology development and has previously been involved in the development of a pharmaceutical research and development company.

Supported by Deputy Chair Dr Brian Finn and other board members, Professor Palmer will be the driving force behind the development of the GIHMR and its expansion on local, national and international research fronts.

“This is an extraordinary Institute made up of extraordinary people doing the fundamental work necessary to raise the living standards of the community,” Professor Palmer said.

GIHMR director Professor Lyn Griffiths said the development board had been established to provide strategic development advice and support to the Institute.

“Our research involves laboratory and scientific studies as well as community and practice-based research. It spans biomedical and pharmaceutical science, the clinical disciplines of medicine, dentistry, physiotherapy, nursing and psychology, as well as public health and human services,” she said.

The GIHMR has five major research programs including Molecular Basis of Disease, Behavioural Basis of Health, Heart Foundation Research Centre, Clinical and Community Practice Research Centre and Population Health and emerging strengths in bone and muscle research. The Institute currently involves 246 active research members as well as 279 research higher degree students.

Deputy Chair of the GIHMR Development Board Dr Brian Finn, is also Chairman of the Gold Coast Innovation Centre and Former CEO of IBM Australia. His career spans five countries and 35 years experience in marketing, software development and general management.

Other GIHMR Development Board members include:

- Professor Ian McKenzie, formerly founding director of Austin Research Institute, has research interests in transplantation and cancer immunology, vaccines, monoclonal antibodies and biotechnology, with more than 700 published papers.
- Mr Steven Howard is managing director of Gold Coast Publications. He is also a committee member of the Gold Coast Community Fund and Director of the Gold Coast Tourism Board.
- Ms Libby Shakespeare is former CEO of various private hospitals with 37 years experience in health care and hospital management.
- The Hon John Dawkins AO MLC, director of Government Relations Australia, served for 18 years in the House of Representatives for the Australian Labor Party. He holds honorary doctorates from three Australian universities in recognition of his contribution to the development of education policy in Australia.
- The Hon John-Paul Langbroek MP is the Leader of the Opposition, Leader of the Liberal National Party in Queensland. He has also served on a number of Committees including Members Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee and is Deputy Chair of the Health Quality and Complaints Commission Select Committee.
- Mr Tony Hickey is Managing Partner, Hickey Lawyers (one of the largest legal firms on the Gold Coast) with particular expertise in property development, foreign investment and commercial litigation.
- Professor Allan Cripps, Pro Vice Chancellor (Health) at Griffith University, has extensive experience in the provision of clinical services in the hospital sector, pharmaceutical industry research and academic organisations.
- Professor Lyn Griffiths is Director of GIHMR and Dean (Research) for the Health Group at Griffith University and also Director of the Genomics Research Centre. She is a molecular geneticist with more than 25 years experience studying human complex gene disorders.

By Kelly Whittington
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