



NORTHERN QUEENSLAND
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MED NORRTH Conference

(Northern Outcomes in Regional Research, Translation, and Health)

From Reef to Remote

1 August 2026



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Tropical
Australian
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Centre

Australian College of
Rural & Remote Medicine
WORLD LEADERS IN RURAL PRACTICE



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By doctors for doctors

Conference Program

7:45am	Registration Opens
Session 1 8:30am	Welcome & Introduction – Joint NQPC & MED NORRTH Plenary <i>Bringing together delegates from the Northern Queensland Physicians Conference (NQPC) and MED NORRTH for a shared opening session.</i> Conference Opening Address by Dr Ben Vogler, co-convenor Northern Queensland Physician Conference. Keynote Address by Professor Eddy Strivens, Geriatrician, Director of Research and Clinical Director in Cairns Panel Discussion Panel Topic: “Looking Back and Looking Forward” Panel Chair: Dr Peter Bourke, Consultant Physician and Clinical Dean, Cairns Hospital Panellists: Dr Tom Kite: Cardiologist, Cairns Hospital and Cairns Private Hospital Dr Elias Bitzer: Research and Luminal PHO, Gastroenterology Department, PAH Ms Mia White: MBBS (Hons) student, James Cook University
9:40am	Morning Tea
Session 2 10:10am	Supporter Presentation – Tropical Australian Academic Health Centre (TAAHC) by Dr Scott Davis, Director Oral Presentations <i>Iron deficiency without anaemia in pre- and postmenopausal females: to scope or not to scope?</i> Presenter: Dr Mirko Farruggia, Prevocational Medical doctor <i>Emergency department care for women presenting with pelvic pain: a scoping review of drivers of presentation, care patterns, and barriers to optimal management.</i> Presenter: Mia White, Medical student <i>Psychosocial Impacts of Adenomyosis: Findings from a Scoping Review and National Australian Survey.</i> Presenter: Sarah McDonnell, Medical student

Bridging the Simulation Gap: Low-cost 3D-printed procedural skills training in a regional health service

Presenter: Dr Preethi George Pandeth, Medical Registrar

- Quick Break -

Low-value Venous Blood Gas Use in Emergency Departments: Preliminary scoping review results.

Presenter: Simoni Shirwadkar, Medical student

Assessing Antigen-Induced T-Cell Responses Using HTS-RTqPCR.

Presenter: Jasmeen Kaur, Medical student

Value-based use of blood cultures in the Townsville University Hospital Emergency Department.

Presenter: Amy Weber, Medical student

Hirayama Disease: A Rare Cause of Unilateral Distal Upper Limb Atrophy in a Young Male.

Presenter: Dr Keshav Nagpal, NQ IMG Prep Medical Practitioner

CpG-Level DNA Methylation Differences Between Filipino ULA and ULP Cleft-Affected Tissue Phenotypes.

Presenter: Ioannis Chatzipapas, Medical student

12:00pm

Lunch Break & Posters

Barriers to Detection of Myocardial Injury After Non-Cardiac Surgery in Regional Australian Hospitals: A Narrative Review – Dr Larissa Martin, Prevocational Medical Doctor

Mapping Learning: A Scoping Review of Study Resources Used by Australian Medical Students – Elijah Martins, Medical student

Intracranial Extension of Sinonasal Adenocarcinoma Presenting as a Presumed Olfactory Groove Meningioma: A Case Report – Dr Kanako Brooke, Prevocational Medical Doctor

Rapid Labor Progression in a Woman Requesting Cesarean After Previous Perinatal Loss: A Case Report on Trauma-Informed Care and Ethical Decision-Making – Pravnoor Singh Mundra, Medical student

Teenage births in Far North Queensland, Australia: trends, rurality, antenatal engagement, and postpartum contraception uptake – Imogen Martin, Medical student

5-Fluorouracil Associated Myopericarditis Presenting as Acute Coronary Syndrome in a Regional Victorian Centre – Dr Sampathawaduge Ashail Silva, Medical Registrar

STEMI Mimics in Regional Practice: Diagnostic Challenges in Rural and Remote Medicine – Dr Sampathawaduge Ashail Silva, Medical Registrar

Barriers to Cardiac Rehabilitation Uptake in Rural and Remote Australia: Lessons from the Northern Territory – Dr Sampathawaduge Ashail Silva, Medical Registrar

A case of watermelon-induced hyperkalaemia presenting with cardiac syncope in an indigenous Australian woman with End-Stage renal failure – Dr Farnaz Jahani, Basic Physician Trainee

Post-operative Outcomes Following Below Knee Amputations at Townsville University Hospital – Dr Lauren Bosley, Prevocational Medical Doctor

Session 3
1:00pm

Oral Presentations

A Research Snapshot: Australian Institute of Tropical Health & Medicine (AITHM).

Presenter: Professor Alex Loukas, Director, AITHM

Post-polypectomy bleeding in a regional endoscopy service: risk factors, management, and outcomes.

Presenter: Dr Christopher James Shephard, Advanced Trainee – Gastroenterology & Hepatology

“Speak as if your words echo because they do”: A qualitative analysis of medical students learning following parent-led teaching in FaST-ER.

Presenter: Charlotte Bulat, Medical student

FaST-ER: Impact of Parent-Led Teaching on Medical Student Empathy and Family-Centred Care.

Presenter: Autumn Flint, Medical student

Miles apart: Rural-Metro gaps in orthopaedic research across Queensland.

Presenter: Jill Myatt, Medical student

The Use of Rurality Models in Queensland General Practitioner-Led Primary Care Accessibility Research: A Scoping Review.

Presenter: Aidan Hughes, Medical student

Intramuscular Cranial Extension of the Small Saphenous Vein with Deep Femoral Triangle Termination: A Donor Case Report and Literature Synthesis.

Presenter: Pravnoor Singh Mundra, Medical student

Biological and Clinical Determinants of the Immunotherapy Response in Child-Pugh B Advanced Hepatocellular Carcinoma.

Presenter: Robert Field, Medical student

The Impact of Remoteness on Maternal and Perinatal Outcomes in Queensland.

Presenter: Pema Hayman, Medical student

Evaluating the Appropriateness of Coagulation Studies in Adults Presenting to The Townsville University Hospital Emergency Department: A Retrospective Chart Review.

Presenter: Taylor Edgley, Medical student

2:30pm

Break

Session 4

2:45pm

Research Speed Networking Event

Station 1: *The Accidental Researcher – From Clinician to Researcher and Back Again.*

Presenter: Professor Eddy Strivens, Geriatrician & Director of Research, CHHHS

Station 2: *Small Question, Big Impact – How Research Can Change the Future.*

Presenter: Dr Louis Peachey, General Practitioner, Life Fellow, Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine.

Station 3: *Research Grants – Where Do I Start?*

Presenter: Dr Paul Giacomini, Research Development and Partnership Advisor, JCU

Station 4: *Tips for Publishing Your Research.*

Presenter: Melissa Storey, Senior Editor, Rural and Remote Health

Station 5: *Starting Research? Let's Talk Ethics*

Presenter: Dr Kath McFarlane, Senior Research Fellow Health Practitioner Research Capacity, CHHS

Evaluation Survey, Conference Wrap & Awards

4:00pm –

5:00pm

MED NORRTH & NQPC Post Conference Networking on the Balcony

Join delegates from both conferences on the terrace for some refreshments sponsored by AVANT.

Open the door to a **world of** **possibilities** in northern Queensland.

Explore training pathways, career planning resources, and research and education opportunities — and discover what makes northern Queensland an ideal place to train and live.

www.nqrth.edu.au

Northern Queensland Regional Training Hubs (NQRTH) was formed by JCU as part of an initiative of the Australian Government's Integrated Rural Training Pipeline (IRTP) and funded by the Department of Health and Aged Care.



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