

## UQ Summer Research Project Description - 2026

<b>Project title:</b>	<b>Liver PERL</b>
<b>Hours of engagement &amp; delivery mode</b>	Hours of engagement: 30 hrs per week for 6 weeks between 12 January and 20 February 2026.  Location: Princess Alexandra Hospital, Radiation Oncology
<b>Description:</b>	Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is one of the most lethal gastrointestinal cancers, with poor overall survival rates and the fastest-rising incidence of any cancer in Australia. For patients with early to intermediate stage disease, locoregional therapy forms the standard of care. However, the majority of patients are not candidates for surgical resection, leaving them to receive treatments such as microwave ablation, transarterial chemoembolisation (TACE), or stereotactic body radiotherapy (SBRT). While these therapies are widely used, less is known about how patients experience them and how this impacts their overall quality of life and decision-making. The aim of this project is to explore patient experiences of locoregional therapies for HCC and to contribute to the development of tailored patient-reported experience measures (PREMs) and patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs). The ultimate goal is to design an evaluation tool that captures meaningful patient perspectives and helps guide clinicians in recommending the most suitable treatment pathways. This project will provide the student with an opportunity to engage in qualitative research, gain insights into patient-centred care, and contribute to an area of growing importance in liver cancer management.
<b>Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:</b>	The student undertaking this project will conduct surveys with patients who have undergone two or more locoregional therapies during their cancer management journey. The goal is to better understand patient experiences and identify key factors influencing quality of life, treatment tolerance, and decision-making. Findings will inform the development of patient-reported experience measures (PREMs) and patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs), with the aim of creating a specific evaluation tool to guide clinical recommendations.  This project provides the student with hands-on experience in patient-centred research, qualitative data collection, and analysis. The results are expected to form the foundation for developing and trialling PREM/PROM tools for clinical use, with opportunities for dissemination through conference presentations and journal publications.
<b>Suitable for:</b>	Pre-medical provisional students, students considering a PhD in public health domains.
<b>Primary Supervisor:</b>	Dr Yoo Young Lee <a href="mailto:Yooyoung.lee@health.qld.gov.au">Yooyoung.lee@health.qld.gov.au</a>
<b>Further info:</b>	The supervisor CAN be contacted by students prior to submission of an application.