

UQ turns red for a reason

23 April 2014

The University of Queensland will again be bathed in red for the month of May to raise awareness of multiple sclerosis.



UQ will switch on red floodlights on the northern side of the Forgan Smith building between dusk and midnight throughout MS Awareness Month.

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is the most common neurological disease in young Australian adults, affecting the central nervous system, attacking the brain and spinal cord and causing irreparable damage.

UQ School of Medicine researcher Professor Michael Pender said the University was conducting research that could lead to the development of new therapies.

" These therapies aim to prevent and treat MS by controlling Epstein-Barr virus infection," he said.

" Evidence indicates that infection with the Epstein-Barr virus, which is normally kept under tight control by CD8 T cells, has a role in the development of MS.

" Our current research is investigating the cause and consequence of impaired CD8 T cell immunity to Epstein-Barr virus in MS," Professor Pender said.

There is no known cause for MS, and diagnosis in Australia is rising with five Australians being diagnosed every working day.

UQ is one of many major sites across the State to become a Red Supporter throughout May, MS Awareness Month.

UQ Property and Facilities Division Maintenance Manager Contracts Glenn Vickery said UQ participated in the annual event to raise awareness among staff, visitors and students.

" Other sites lighting up to raise awareness are King George Square, Kurilpa Bridge, Skypoint Observation Deck in the Gold Coast, Toowoomba City Hall and Paronella Park in Cairns," he said.

MS Queensland urges the public to get involved with the [Kiss Goodbye to MS](#) campaign and support Australian research into treatment, prevention and ultimately finding a cure for MS.

Wear red lipstick, dare others to go red and share the message with a Kiss Goodbye to MS event.

Media: UQ Communications, 3346 7887 or communications@uq.edu.au.

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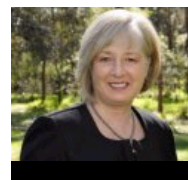
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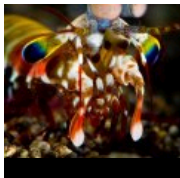
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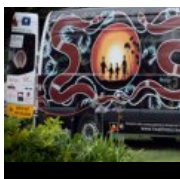
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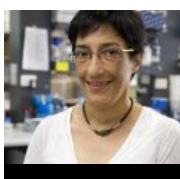


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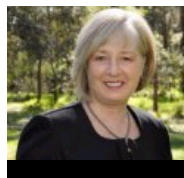


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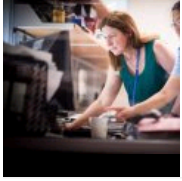
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