



Prof. Carolyn Mountford

CEO and Director of Research, The Translational Research Institute

Professor Carolyn Mountford is the CEO and Director of Research at The Translational Research Institute (TRI), Brisbane, Australia. Professor Mountford brings to TRI a long and established interaction with the diagnostic imaging industry. Her team has been a worldwide development site for Siemens since 1999. She has led multidisciplinary programs interfacing these teams with industry; translating the technology; and making it available worldwide. This approach led to the award of an NHMRC grant for a Clinical Centre of Excellence in 1998.

In 2016, Professor Mountford secured funding from the Queensland Government's \$46 million Advance Queensland Jobs Strategy to establish the TRI Innovation and Translation Centre in collaboration with Siemens Healthcare to advance the field of magnetic resonance (MR) imaging and spectroscopy in medicine.

Professor Mountford is a co-inventor of the diagnostic protocol to monitor women at high risk for breast cancer identifying metabolic deregulations in their breast tissue that precede tumour growth. These pre-invasive stages are not apparent by current imaging modalities. The same technology is shown to identify changes to the brain associated with learning, memory, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and injury from blast and impact. Her team are under contract to the USA and Australian military to develop this approach to improve the health of soldiers.

Prior to her appointment at the Translational Research Institute in February 2015, Professor Mountford held appointments at Harvard Medical School where she was Professor of Radiology and Director of the Centre for Clinical Spectroscopy at the Brigham and Women's Hospital; and recently at the University of Newcastle where she was the Professor of Radiology and Director of the Centre for MR in Health.

Professor Mountford has received numerous national and international awards while developing the new diagnostic technology over several decades. This required determination and commitment, facing a community that did not see the long-term potential of the research. Supporting the desire to see that Australia receive significant long-term economic benefits from the magnetic resonance technology, she was awarded The Graham Coupland Medal from the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons; the Inaugural Pioneer of Hope Award from the NSW Cancer Council; and a Partner in Excellence Award from the Brigham and Women's Hospital at HMS.