Is my project...
RESEARCH or is it QUALITY ASSURANCE or INNOVATION?

RESEARCH
As per the Higher Education Research Data Collection (HERDC) definition, research is a creative and systematic work undertaken in order to increase the stock of knowledge – including knowledge of humankind, culture and society – and to devise new applications of available knowledge.

AUDIT AND QUALITY ASSURANCE ACTIVITIES (QA)
Such activities aim to identify and quantify what is currently being done (or not done), and/or the extent of a problem, practice or behaviour to gain knowledge that may then be used to improve a service or practice.

INNOVATIVE SURGICAL PROCEDURE
An innovative surgical procedure (technique or device) is any procedure that meets 1 or more of the following criteria: the technique/device used is new or differs from the standard technique in 1 or more of the following ways: altogether new, new to anatomical location, or new to patient group.

NEW INTERVENTION
A new intervention is a procedure not previously performed within Macquarie University Hospital, but performed in another hospital. This will include variations to an existing treatment, a new medication or device or a new process introduced to deliver health care.

Does the project aim at new findings, i.e., being novel?

Is the project based on original, not obvious, concepts and hypotheses and leads to new and creative outcomes?

Is the new intervention entered in the Australian Register of Therapeutics Goods (ARTG)?

Does the innovative surgery/new intervention fall under the CTN/CTX (Clinical Trial Notification/Exemption) scheme?

Does the project lead to results that could be reproducible and transferable?

Your project is Quality Assurance (QA) or Innovation. Submit application for review by Clinical Audit and Innovation Committee to: david.gillatt@mq.edu.au

Examples of QA activities:
• The data being collected and analysed is co- incidental to standard operating procedures with standard equipment and/or protocols;
• The data being collected and analysed is expressly for the purpose of maintaining standards or identifying areas for improvement in the environment from which the data was obtained;
• The data being collected and analysed is not linked to individuals.

Examples of innovations:
• Extension of microsurgical techniques;
• Established procedure undertaken on different category of patients;
• Surgical robot;
• New hip prosthesis, implant made from new material;
• First heart transplant;
• Use of established anastomotic techniques in new locations.

The project is Research. Contact the Clinical Research Manager for advice at clinical.research@mqhealth.org.au