

Neurosurgeons

Dr Francis Tomlinson
MBBS, MD, PhD, FRACS
NEUROSURGEON & SPINAL SURGEON

Dr Terry Coyne
MBBS, FRACS
NEUROSURGEON & SPINAL SURGEON

Dr Richard Kahler
MBBS, FRACS
NEUROSURGEON & SPINAL SURGEON

Dr David Walker
BMedSc, MBBS, PhD, FRACS
NEUROSURGEON & SPINAL SURGEON

Dr Michael Bryant
MBBS, FRACS
NEUROSURGEON & SPINAL SURGEON

Ph: 07 3833 2500
Fax: 07 3833 2511
website www.brizbrain.com.au
email info@brizbrain.com.au

All correspondence to:
BrizBrain & Spine
The Wesley Hospital
Evan Thomson Building
Level 10, 24 Chasely Street
Auchenflower Qld 4066

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Meet the team

We believe in a team approach to patient treatment. From their first consultation through to their last day of post-operative care, our patients will be supported by our neurosurgeons, clinic nurses and administration team. We are the only neurosurgery practice in Australia to employ a Neuro-Oncology Nurse Practitioner who specialises in brain tumour support services.

Through the Newro Foundation, we are expanding our team of recovery staff, to provide more personalised patient support as well as glean valuable insights and, over time, statistically robust research into the efficacy of brain and spinal treatments.

BrizBrain & Spine is a growing team of 20-plus administrative and clinical support staff as well as five neurosurgeons, each with sub-specialisations and dedicated areas of interest.

Dr Francis Tomlinson MBBS MD, PhD, FRACS



BrizBrain & Spine's senior surgeon and a founding member, Dr Francis Tomlinson is a neurosurgeon and a specialist in the surgical treatment of conditions of the brain and spine.

Upon completing his undergraduate medical training at the University of Queensland, Dr Tomlinson spent 19 years working in the Royal Brisbane and Royal Children's Hospitals, and the prestigious Mayo Clinic in the United States of America.

After leaving the Royal Brisbane Hospital in 2004, Dr Tomlinson managed his busy private neurosurgical practice until he established BrizBrain & Spine with his fellow co-founders.

He has extensive experience in neurosurgery and has particular interests in neuro-oncology, vascular neurosurgery, spinal surgery, epilepsy, skull base surgery and medico-legal medicine.

NEUROSURGERY GUIDE

For Doctors & Specialists



Dr Terry Coyne MBBS, FRACS



A founding member of BrizBrain & Spine, Dr Terry Coyne is a neurosurgeon with specialist skills in brain and spinal surgery.

After obtaining his medical degree from the University of Queensland in 1983, Dr Coyne completed his training as a specialist neurosurgeon in 1991. By this time, he had worked at the Townsville, Royal Brisbane and Princess Alexandra Hospitals.

Wanting to continue his training, Dr Coyne spent a further two years completing a post-graduate Fellowship at the University of Toronto in Canada. He then returned to Brisbane in 1994 to work as a Visiting Medical Officer (Neurosurgeon) at the Royal Brisbane and Royal Children's Hospitals.

At this time, Dr Coyne commenced working in private practice, and now after 11 years of combined public and private hospital experience, works full-time for BrizBrain & Spine. His practice covers a broad range of adult neurosurgery, with particular interests in cerebrovascular surgery, skull base surgery, spinal surgery and movement disorder surgery, including deep brain stimulation (performed in conjunction with neurologist Dr Peter Silburn).

Dr Richard Kahler MBBS, FRACS



A founding member of BrizBrain & Spine, Dr Richard Kahler is a specialist neurosurgeon adept in all conditions requiring cranial surgery and spinal surgery.

After completing his medical degree at the University of Queensland, Dr Kahler attained his neurosurgical training in Townsville, Brisbane, Perth and the UK.

On returning from the United Kingdom at the end of 2000, he was appointed to the Royal Brisbane Hospital and Royal Children's Hospital as a Visiting Medical Officer, Specialist Neurosurgeon. Shortly thereafter he established BrizBrain and in 2005 he merged with Dr Tomlinson and Dr Coyne, his co-founders, to establish BrizBrain & Spine as the face of modern neurosurgical care in Queensland. Dr Kahler is fully trained in all aspects of neurosurgical care and is at the cutting edge of minimally invasive surgical techniques and the utilisation of computer-guided surgery.

As well as an interest in cranial surgery including neuro-oncology, neurovascular surgery, endoscopic neurosurgery and skull-base surgery, Dr Kahler has specialist training in spinal surgery. He honed his skills and developed new techniques during his 12 months' advanced training at Frenchay Hospital in Bristol, United Kingdom. This training was specifically directed at complex and computer-guided spinal surgery. He was also involved in the research of spinal artificial disc surgery and Dr Kahler continues to focus on these techniques as well as minimal access 'keyhole' spinal surgery.

NEUROSURGERY GUIDE

For Doctors & Specialists



Dr David Walker BMedSc, MBBS PhD, FRACS



Dr David Walker is a neurosurgeon, specialising in surgical treatment of conditions of the brain and spine and has been associated with BrizBrain & Spine since its foundation in 2005.

Dr Walker completed his undergraduate medical training at the University of Queensland. He then studied for a doctorate PhD at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research on the Molecular Genetics of Astrocytomas (brain tumours) before undertaking advanced neurosurgical training at the Royal Brisbane and Royal Melbourne Hospitals.

Dr Walker was Neuro-Oncology Fellow at the prestigious Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, USA and was also appointed a position at Harvard University during this time. In the United States he underwent advanced neurosurgical training in the management of brain and pituitary tumours.

Since returning to Brisbane in 2001, Dr Walker has developed a special clinical interest in all aspects of neuro-oncology (brain tumours), especially surgery for low grade gliomas. He remains active in research, both at the clinical and basic science level through his links with the Queensland Institute of Medical Research and the Newro Foundation.

Dr Michael Bryant MBBS, FRACS



Dr Michael Bryant is a neurosurgeon, specialising in conditions involving the brain and spine and has been working with the doctors of BrizBrain & Spine since early 2000.

Dr Bryant completed his undergraduate medical training at the University of Queensland in 1997. With his interest in the area increasing, he undertook advanced neurosurgical training at the Royal Brisbane and Royal Adelaide Hospitals from 2003 – 2007.

During his nine years of broad neurosurgical exposure, Dr Bryant undertook a year of research at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, furthering his knowledge of brain tumour behaviour and treatments.

Following this research, Dr Bryant was made a Neuro-Spinal Fellow in 2008 at the Flinders Medical Centre Adelaide before moving on to the highly regarded Royal Adelaide Hospital Spinal Unit.

Dr Bryant has a continued interest in spinal surgery and plans to maintain his sub-specialty skills moving forward.

Our credentials

BrizBrain & Spine's neurosurgery team is among the most experienced and successful in Australia. Our neurosurgeons have more than a century of experience between them in all areas of medicine and neurosurgery, and are leaders in their field. Our practice has performed world-class and Australian-first surgery, innovating new techniques and paving the way for peers.

All of our neurosurgeons received undergraduate medical training in Brisbane at the University of Queensland and continued their post-graduate qualifications at some of the most prestigious hospitals and clinics in the

NEUROSURGERY GUIDE

For Doctors & Specialists



world including the Mayo Clinic, Harvard University in the USA; University of Toronto in Canada; the Frenchay Hospital in the UK; and the Royal Adelaide Hospital Spinal Unit. This brings an unparalleled depth of experience to BrizBrain & Spine's neurosurgical practice.

Brain Tumour Support

BrizBrain & Spine is the only neurosurgery practice in Australia to offer patients 24/7 access to a dedicated Neuro-Oncology Nurse Practitioner during and after treatment. This individualised support service has repeatedly proven to be extremely beneficial to patients and their families in coping with, and recovering from, a brain tumour.

We also employ Registered Nurses to participate in and support the research trials we conduct through the Newro Foundation.

The service provided to our patients

BrizBrain & Spine has clinics and consulting rooms in Queensland and northern New South Wales. These are situated at Auchenflower, Spring Hill, Chermside, North Lakes, Toowoomba, Buderim, Tweed Head, Rockhampton and Lismore. Surgery takes place in one of three hospitals in Brisbane: The Wesley Hospital, St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital and Holy Spirit Northside Hospital.

We provide our patients detailed information on the billing regime for consultations and surgery, their eligibility for rebates and managing the Medicare gap. Our fully trained support team understands that the billing system can sometimes seem complex and confusing, particularly when patients are unwell and under stress. Part of our patient care program is to ensure every patient is guided through the billing process and has access to the information they need to claim maximum allowances through Medicare and their private health provider.

Newro Foundation

BrizBrain & Spine has established a dedicated, not-for-profit research foundation. The Newro Foundation aims to improve the treatment and care of patients suffering brain and spinal conditions so they can return to a normal life as quickly as possible.

While research doesn't come cheap, it's vital. You can help this worthwhile cause by making a donation. All money raised will help us find new ways to improve the lives of people with brain and spinal conditions. To donate to Newro Foundation and to learn more about our research, please visit www.newrofoundation.com.au

Clinic Locations

- **The Wesley Hospital.** Evan Thomson Building, Level 10, Chasely Street, Auchenflower Qld 4066
- **St Andrew's Medical Suites.** Suite 3, Level 7, 457 Wickham Terrace, Spring Hill Qld 4000
- **Fortus Medical Suites.** Suite 2, 832 Gympie Road, Chermside Qld 4032
- **United Medical Suites.** Shop 2B, Hilltop Shopping Centre, 71 Astley Parade, North Lakes QLD 4509
- **St Vincents Medical Centre.** Scott Street, Toowoomba Qld 4350
- **The Sunshine Coast Private Hospital.** Medical Centre, Syd Lingard Drive, Buderim Qld 4556
- **Mater Private Rockhampton.** Ward Street, Rockhampton Qld 4700
- **Tweed Day Surgery.** Suite 5 - Level 1. 38 – 44 Boyd Street, Tweed Heads NSW 2485
- **St Vincents Hospital.** Suite 2, Level 1, 20 Dalley Street, Lismore NSW 2480