

ACTIVE AGEING WORKSHOP

Held February 14, 2011
Innovation Campus, Wollongong

The Intelligent Polymer Research Institute (IPRI) hosted a workshop on 14 February bringing together scientists and workers from the aged care sector.

The "Collaborative Research Opportunities: Enabling Technologies for Active Ageing" workshop attendees discussed the potential use of electromaterials to assist movement and active ageing as well as sensing technologies, advances in monitoring and information technology.

Director of IPRI at the University of Wollongong, Professor Gordon Wallace, said with limits on current housing and care options, it is increasingly important to encourage active, independent ageing if older individuals are to live in their own homes for as long as possible.

"There are 2.8 million Australians (13% of the population) aged over 65 years and this number is expected to triple in the next 30 years, to 6.4 million. This will lead to an increased demand for aged care services, particularly as one in 10 older people will be accessing some type of aged care service at any one time," Professor Wallace said.

"Although 3% of total Australian Government revenues are currently spent on aged care, this could increase to 9% by 2050, half of which is spent on community care," Professor Wallace said.

The IPRI workshop involved scientists, engineers, clinicians and aged care workers developing strategies to deal with the emerging problems associated with aged care in Australia.



Presenters at the workshop are (from left) Professor Gordon Wallace (UOW), Scott Edwards (SMR-Automotive), Professor Deborah Sweeney (University of Western Sydney), Dr Bridget Munro (UOW) and Professor Dermot Diamond (Dublin City University) [Missing: Sharon Martin (UOW)]



Attendees Assoc Prof Peter Innis (IPRI) (from left) Dr Bridget Munro (UOW), and Prof Gursel Alici (IPRI) at the workshop enjoy a chance to chat during the break.

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