

MEDIA RELEASE

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Exploring 3D bioprinting for wound healing with Australian of the Year Professor Fiona Wood

The [ARC Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science](http://electromaterials.edu.au) (ACES) will host 2005 Australian of the Year and world leading burns specialist Professor Fiona Wood at the Innovation Campus on Monday 6 May.

The Centre's leading researchers in biomaterials and advanced fabrication technologies will join Professor Wood for a day of activities to explore wound healing strategies, the creation of artificial skin, and developing practical applications in a clinical environment.

Professor Wood is one of Australia's most innovative and respected surgeons and researchers, and is most well known for her pioneering work in developing the 'spray-on skin' technique, and her outstanding efforts to treat victims of the 2002 Bali Bombings.

ACES Director Professor Gordon Wallace said he was thrilled to have the opportunity to bring together researchers from a variety of fields to network in this important area of medicine.

"Fiona and I are both passionate about collaborating across disciplines, as it allows us to combine a range of critical research strengths, ensuring we have the full picture when we translate our research to improve clinical outcomes," Gordon said.

"We will use the day to showcase our ACES leading research in biomaterials and advanced fabrication technologies and learn from Fiona's team about burn care, trauma and scar reconstruction, to enable us to then share ideas on how we can improve wound healing in real life scenarios," Gordon said.

Professor Fiona Wood said she was a strong believer in research being a team effort, and is always keen building Australian and international collaborations to develop global capacity.

"Burns medicine is a highly complex field, and there is always room to improve our approach as our understanding is continually evolving. Our time with Professor Wallace and his team will be invaluable as it will expose us to new knowledge in biomaterials, bioinks and fabricating delivery systems for wound healing and artificial skin," Fiona said.

Professor Wood will headline a workshop at the Innovation Campus titled '3D Bioprinting for Wound Healing and Artificial Skin', prior to giving an address to a broader University of Wollongong research audience on 'Tissue Regeneration, Tissue Delivery and Tissue Integration Challenges of the Future'. Fiona will also tour ACES facilities, including visiting TRICEP in UOW's newest 3D bioprinting facility.

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Media opportunity

Prof Gordon Wallace and Prof Fiona Wood are available for interviews on Monday 6 May. Please contact Lauren Hood on 4221 5306 to arrange an interview.

About the ARC Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science (ACES)

Based at the University of Wollongong's Innovation Campus, ACES is a multidisciplinary research group with a focus on developing functional devices for applications including batteries, solar cells and systems that interact with living tissue.

About Professor Fiona Wood

Winthrop Professor Fiona Wood is a Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon specialising in the field of burn care, trauma and scar reconstruction. As Director of the Burns Service of Western Australia, Professor Wood is consultant at Perth Children's Hospital and Fiona Stanley Hospital, where she leads an interdisciplinary team with broad collaboration focused on translation to improve clinical outcomes.

Professor Wood was the recipient of the 2003 Australian Medical Association 'Contribution to Medicine' Award and a 2003 Order of Australia Medal for her work with Bali bombing victims. In 2005, Professor Wood won the Western Australian Citizen of the Year award, and that same year received the honour of being named Australian of the Year. Professor Wood is a National Living Treasure.

In 2005, Professor Wood and Marie Stoner (co-founders of Clinical Cell Culture Pty Ltd (now Avitamedical), won the Clunies Ross Award (Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering) for their contribution to medical science in Australia.

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