

## MEDIA RELEASE

28 May 2019

### ACES goes virtual to bring the world to the 'Gong

The ARC Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science (ACES) is launching its first Virtual Lab Tour to enable industry, research and community members an insight into its world-class research taking place in Wollongong.

*ACES HQ @ UOW – The Virtual Tour* focuses on the ACES lead node, the Intelligent Polymer Research Institute (IPRI), at the University of Wollongong's Innovation Campus. The tour will cover a number of key research areas at IPRI including synthesis of advanced materials such as graphene, manufacturing of composite materials like bioinks containing human cells and methods to create structures from such materials using fibre spinning, and 3D printing. The initiative includes step-by-step footage through the IPRI labs with researchers explaining the work involved in their research. The team will also be online to answer any questions during this first virtual tour.

ACES Director Professor Gordon Wallace said the *ACES HQ @ UOW – The Virtual Tour* gives people from across the world the chance to check out IPRI facilities from the comfort of their own homes.

"The Virtual Lab Tour gives participants an insider's view of our team's cutting edge research into advanced materials and device fabrication for use in game-changing health and energy solutions," Gordon said.

"We've designed the Lab Tour to be accessible for anyone interested in learning more about our work, whether you're a researcher looking to partner with us, an end-user looking for a tailor-made solution for an industry problem, or a member of the community interested in knowing more about the ground-breaking work in advanced materials taking place right here in the 'Gong.

"The Virtual Tour will showcase a number of our key areas of advanced research including the discovery and development of bioinks and the integration of living cells delivered using customised bioprinters to address specific medical challenges."

The Virtual Tour will be held in two parts on Tuesday 28 May and Thursday 30 May. **Session 1** will cover the discovery, development and scaling of new aspects of the chemistry of graphene; using advances in materials synthesis for real structures (3D printing stents); fibre spinning electrodes; and preparing cells for printing. **Session 2** will feature a tour of TRICEP (Translational Research Initiative for Cellular Engineering and Printing on Montague St, North Wollongong); developing protocols for bioinks and customised 3D printers for manufacture; printing printers for clinical collaborators; building new tools to train the next generation of biofabricators.

Participants can register their interest for Sessions 1 and 2 of the *ACES HQ @ UOW – The Virtual Tour* on Eventbrite: <https://aceshqvirtualtour2019.eventbrite.com.au>

ARC Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science  
electromaterials.edu.au

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**Media opportunity:**

Please contact ACES Communication and Media Coordinator Lauren Hood on 02 4221 5306 or [lhood@uow.edu.au](mailto:lhood@uow.edu.au) to arrange any interviews.

**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.

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