MEDIA RELEASE
Monday 23 October 2017 **EMBARGOED UNTIL MIDDAY 23 OCTOBER 2017**

UOW researcher Prof Gordon Wallace named 2017 NSW Scientist of the Year

Professor Gordon Wallace, Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science (ACES) at the University of Wollongong (UOW), has been named 2017 NSW Scientist of the Year.

Professor Wallace is an internationally renowned researcher in the field of electromaterials science for his innovative use of nanotechnology in conjunction with organic conductors to create new materials for energy conversion and storage, as well as medical bionics.

As Director of Australian National Fabrication Facility (ANFF) - Materials node – Professor Wallace has led the development of innovative approaches to materials processing and fabrication tools that enable advanced materials to be integrated into practical devices for use in energy and medical bionics. This has facilitated a number of commercial opportunities in both areas.

He has established a national clinical research network to develop customised printing solutions (hardware, software and bioinks) targeted at a range of clinical challenges. His research vision is to develop fully functional implantable 3D printed structures containing living cells, to regenerate damaged cartilage in knees, the ears of children suffering from microtia, bone and even organs.

This fusing of human biology with engineering and robotics has the potential to fix a patient's specific medical condition- from cancer to diabetes and neural diseases - by printing a functional 3D structure containing living cells and inserting it into their body via surgery. This can only be achieved via interdisciplinary and collaborative research teams that involve end users throughout the research and development process.

ACES research into energy conversion and the formation of hydrogen from water into important fuels, hydrogen and oxygen, has led to the successful formation of an ACES spin off company, Aquahydrex, now in its fifth year of operation.

"It is a great honour to have a fantastic team to captain and for our research to be recognised in this way," Professor Wallace said.

"We will continue to strive to ensure that our most fundamental discoveries are translated into real applications to the benefit of our communities in the most effective way possible."

Professor Wallace is among ten leading researchers, innovators and educators who will be honoured at the 2017 Premier's Prizes for Science & Engineering at Government House on Monday 23 October 2017.

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian said the Prizes recognise the contribution scientists and engineers make to our everyday lives.

"This year's Prizes again demonstrate NSW has some of the world's best and brightest scientists and technologists across a diverse range of disciplines right here in our own backyard," Premier Berejiklian said.

"Through their inspiring ingenuity and innovation this year's winners have delivered economic, environmental, health, social and technological benefits for the global community."

The Prizes will be presented by the Governor of New South Wales, His Excellency General David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd), NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer Professor Mary O'Kane AC and leaders from government, industry, business, academia and the state's Research and Development community.

Media opportunity:

Professor Gordon Wallace is available for interview between 12.30pm and 2.30pm on Monday 23 October 2017.
Contact ACES Communication and Media Officers Lisa Hutton (lhutton@uow.edu.au) or Sian Wright (sianw@uow.edu.au) to make arrangements. Phone: 02 4221 5960.

The ARC Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science (ACES)
Headquartered 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.