

MEDIA RELEASE

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Bioprinting facility another step closer for University of Wollongong

The University of Wollongong (UOW) is another step closer to establishing a world first facility to enable [development of bioinks and customised bioprinting systems](#) for clinical applications, after receiving \$347,000 from the Australian Research Council (ARC).

The ARC Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities (LIEF) funding was awarded to UOW and research partners from Deakin University, University of Melbourne, University of Adelaide, Sydney University, St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne, Royal Adelaide Hospital, South Australian Health, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District and Lions NSW Eye Bank.

The bioprint facility project is being led by ARC Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science (ACES) and the Australian National Fabrication Facility (ANFF) Materials node, both headquartered at UOW. ACES and ANFF (Materials) Executive Director Professor Gordon Wallace said the ARC LIEF funding will enable acquisition of state-of-the art 3D printing tools.

"We will use these in association with our partners to develop customised 3D bioprinting systems for specific applications," Professor Wallace said.

"The project will address the current and future need for delivering 3D printing globally for research, applied science, medical devices and diagnostics and advanced therapeutics.

"Building upon earlier and current research activities in 3D bioprinting at UOW, we are in a position to provide a portal to global research and development activities in this area, as well as immediate commercialisation opportunities."

The ARC funding comes on top of a \$400,000 grant from [MTPConnect](#) - the Medical Technologies and Pharmaceuticals Industry Growth Centre, to enable establishment of a bioprint facility.

"The proposed facility will expedite the development of commercial opportunities in 3D bioprinting and identify opportunities with clinical partners, Small Medium Enterprise (SME) partners and other industries to enable production of relevant biomaterials, formulations of bioinks and customised bioprinting systems," Professor Wallace said.

He said funding will be used to engage with SME's to develop projects such as 'bioinks' from seaweed, customised delivery systems - the 'iFixPen' to treat conditions of the eye and the 'biopen' for cartilage regeneration.

Media opportunity:

Please contact ACES Communication and Media Officer Lisa Hutton on 02 4221 3239 or lhutton@uow.edu.au to arrange an interview with ACES Director Professor Gordon Wallace.

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.

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