

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

06 August 2019

### **Showcasing ground-breaking research... made in the 'Gong**

Members of the Illawarra community are invited for an insider's look at the ARC Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science (ACES) headquarters at the University of Wollongong as part of National Science Week in August.

Researchers at ACES' Intelligent Polymer Research Institute will throw open the doors to their labs on Thursday 15 August, where visitors can learn about ground-breaking research being conducted in the region at the Innovation Campus.

Local researchers will be on hand to share their latest cutting-edge technologies including: customised bioprinters for treating wounds in the eye; bioink production for wound healing and cartilage regeneration; fibres that allow us to communicate with the human neural system with unprecedented reliability; soft robotic hands; wearable energy storage; and converting carbon dioxide to useful fuels.

ACES Director Prof Gordon Wallace said the IPRI Open Day provides the local community with a fascinating insight into the pioneering research happening right here on their doorstep.

"The IPRI Open Day is the perfect opportunity to showcase the amazing research taking place right here in the 'Gong that is having an impact locally, nationally, and globally," Gordon said.

"Every day our scientists are making strides in technologies that are shaping the next generation of smart materials for health and energy solutions to improve people's lives. We are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work in such a special place.

"Most exciting is the fact this research can directly translate into commercial enterprises, creating job opportunities for our next generation of scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs – if you're considering a job in this field, or are a local industry seeking opportunities in the next generation of manufacturing, come and check out our labs and see what the future could hold!"

The IPRI Open Day will be held on Thursday 15 August, with 30 minute tours operating between 9am and 4pm. The 2019 Bill Wheeler Community Symposium will also be held on Thursday 15 August at the Innovation Campus at 5pm, which is free and open to the public to attend. This year's feature presentation will be given by Prof Gerard Sutton from the Lions NSW Eye Bank and University of Sydney.

As part of National Science Week, ACES will also host an address by world leading cancer and orthopaedic surgeon Prof Peter Choong on Tuesday 13 August. Prof Choong will deliver an address

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to the UOW community on 'What's New in 3D Printing – Patient Specific Solutions – Neurally Driven Prosthetics'.

For more information or to register for these events, please visit the following Eventbrite pages:

**IPRI Open Day:** <https://ipriopenday2019.eventbrite.com.au>

**Bill Wheeler Symposium:** <https://billwheeler2019.eventbrite.com.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 or to attend a tour.

**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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