

RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Advancing Scientific Collaboration

Professor Bill Price from the Nanoscale Organisation and Dynamics Group is taking a leading role in a multidisciplinary and multi-institutional consortium to integrate access and use of magnetic resonance facilities to enhance research collaborations through a Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy grant.

'The consortium is focussing on Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) technologies, which are currently essential technologies for the assessment and treatment of many diseases' says Professor Price. 'There is still huge untapped potential for these technologies to be used in many scientific and medical fields such as in vascular disease, cancer research, biochemistry, drug activity and disease progression. One of the barriers to extending these fields, however, is the need to develop an integrated approach to access and share results from a large number of Magnetic Resonance facilities spread throughout various Australian institutions and research sites. Coordinating these facilities is important for harnessing the huge research potential of these technologies.'

Professor Price, as UWS Node Director in the National Imaging Facility (www.anif.org.au), will facilitate consortium access to UWS' MRI machines to assist collaborative access of these facilities by researchers for innovative new research projects. The results of these projects will be disseminated throughout the consortium and thus drive further collaboration and innovation. This will enhance research capacity in all the collaborating institutions, and extend research into fields that have not previously considered these technologies as a



useful or accessible research tool. This project will provide vital inter-institutional research collaborations in MRI and magnetic resonance research in general, which could ultimately lead to significant advances in fundamental science, industrial applications and health benefits to the people of Australia.

Project Title: National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS Program)

Funding has been set at: \$297,500

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National Imaging Facility (NCRIS) Members: University of Western Sydney, University of Queensland (lead institution), University of NSW, University of Sydney, The Florey Neuroscience Institutes, Monash University, Large Animal Research & Imaging Facility.