



MEDIA RELEASE

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New research node for Griffith University

The ARC Centre of Excellence for Nanoscale BioPhotonics (CNBP) has announced today that Griffith University has become a collaborating partner and will host a CNBP research node at its Institute for Glycomics on the Southport, Gold Coast campus.

As a research node and collaborating partner of the CNBP, Griffith University joins the University of Adelaide, Macquarie University and RMIT University as a core member of the Centre of Excellence.

The Griffith based CNBP research node, headed-up by Associate Professor Daniel Kolarich from the University's 'Institute for Glycomics', will add to CNBP's research capability in the development of next-generation light-based tools that can sense and image at a cellular and molecular level.

"Our team has specialised glycan knowledge and expertise that will aid the Centre in its objectives of improving understanding and knowledge of cell-communication and the nanoscale molecular interactions in the living body," says A/Prof Kolarich.

"Glycans (sugar chains attached to proteins and lipids on the cell surface) are intricately involved in bacterial and viral infection, immune responses, cancers, lung disease, brain function, fertilisation, cardiovascular disease and a host of other cellular activities," he says.

"As a node of the CNBP we will be working to extend our knowledge of these sugars—to be able to better sense and image their interactions, as well as to understand how they function at the molecular level, and ultimately how they shape the health and well-being of an individual."

"In the longer term we expect this work to lead to new and improved approaches to disease and ultimately new and innovative forms of clinical diagnosis," he says.

Mark Hutchinson, CNBP Director and Professor at the University of Adelaide welcomed Griffith University as a new partner to the Centre.

"A/Prof Kolarich and his team are world-class scientists with exceptional knowledge and skills in glycomics. They have state-of-the-art facilities and will add significantly to CNBP's investigative strength, helping us to achieve the highest levels of research excellence," he says.

“The team’s research fits perfectly, and offers unique molecular targets to our core CNBP areas of Imaging, Sensing and Discovery as well as aligning with our key biological areas of study—pain, reproduction and vascular health.”

“Professor Nicolle Packer, who is a current CNBP Chief Investigator (Macquarie University) and also a Principal Research Leader at the Institute for Glycomics, also provides an established link between our two organisations,” says Prof Hutchinson.

“Her world-leading glycan expertise and in-depth knowledge of CNBP research capabilities will greatly assist in helping drive the benefits of this new partnership,” he says. “And I’m extremely excited by the opportunities that we now have to extend our science in this space.”

“Our CNBP research network offers a transdisciplinary and collaborative working environment that will help grow knowledge of glycan activity and glycan impact in areas such as brain cell signalling, the forming of plaque in arteries and in the human fertilisation process,” he concludes.

As prestigious hubs of research expertise, ARC Centres of Excellence bring high-quality researchers together to develop Australia’s international standing in research areas of national priority.

The CNBP is administered by the University of Adelaide and funded by the Australian Research Council until 2021.

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Above - A/Prof Daniel Kolarich

IMAGES AVAILABLE:

A/Prof Daniel Kolarich (landscape) <https://flic.kr/p/266Uh6U>

A/Prof Daniel Kolarich (portrait) <https://flic.kr/p/HxrTKr>

Prof Mark Hutchinson <https://flic.kr/p/Mz8ZYp>

ABOUT:

The Centre for Nanoscale BioPhotonics (CNBP) is an Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence led by the University of Adelaide, with research focussed nodes also at Macquarie University, RMIT University and Griffith University. A \$40m initiative, the CNBP is focused on developing new light-based imaging and sensing tools, that can measure the inner workings of cells, in the living body. <http://cnbp.org.au/>

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Tony Crawshaw
Communications and PR
Centre for Nanoscale BioPhotonics (CNBP)
Macquarie University, Sydney
0402770403
tony.crawshaw@mq.edu.au

Skye Small
Marketing & Communications Manager
Institute for Glycomics, Griffith University
0478 557 008
skye.small@griffith.edu.au