



MEDIA RELEASE

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Friday 14th October, 2016

Biophotonics conference set to light up Adelaide

The inaugural SPIE BioPhotonics Australasia conference will take place from this weekend, attracting two hundred world leading researchers, clinicians, policy-makers, suppliers and other industry professionals to Adelaide, South Australia.

The event, jointly hosted by the ARC Centre of Excellence for Nanoscale BioPhotonics (CNBP) and SPIE (The International Society for Optics and Photonics), will explore the latest in light-based technologies and techniques that allow for an improved understanding of biology and how living systems work at a cellular and molecular level. Biomedical, diagnostic and advanced imaging applications will all feature as part of an innovative research-led program.

CNBP Director at the University of Adelaide, Prof Mark Hutchinson who is chairing the conference, notes that the field of biophotonics is expanding rapidly with its enabling technologies already having a major impact on society.

“New light-based imaging and sensing tools, including advanced optical fibres, sensors, lasers and fluorescing nanoparticles, are now being developed that allow us to measure the molecular activity taking place deep inside of biological cells, inside of the living body,” says Hutchinson.

“This new technology is supporting the ever-growing demand for advanced and effective diagnostics and therapeutics across a whole range of health areas including those related to cancer, fertility, heart disease, pain management and more.”

Spread over four days, SPIE BioPhotonics Australasia will include plenary talks, themed sessions, speed science discussions and networking opportunities focused on increasing research and industry engagement.

“Conferences like this can kick-start exciting new opportunities as researchers and potential business partners come together, to discuss the latest discoveries and how they might be best translated into pioneering products and services,” says Hutchinson. “Having both groups engage early is key so that market-needs and solutions can be fully explored and worked through effectively.”

The conference will also be hoping to inspire the next generation of scientists with one-hundred South Australian students visiting the event to take part in a half-day outreach session that will include talks, poster sessions, light inspired science demonstrations and discussion time with leading researchers.

“If we can help enthuse students in their STEM related study now, there will be real career options for them in the future, particularly in advanced bio-medical and engineering fields, where the potential for real societal impact is huge,” said Hutchinson. “And wouldn’t it be great to see some of these same students on stage in ten years’ time, telling us about their advanced and innovative discoveries as well.”

Looking ahead, Hutchinson believes that it is going to be an extremely rewarding conference.

“We’ve attracted top international researchers here to South Australia including six plenary speakers who are experts in the photonics field and the science that will be on show will be absolutely amazing. Talks will range from new imaging technologies to help us understand how brains work, through to new 3D techniques to model living tissue, to new fibre-optical sensors that can be used in the tiniest of nano-environments. Our program is absolutely full of exciting research.”

SPiE BioPhotonics Australasia will run at the Adelaide Convention Centre from the 16th-19th October 2016. The event’s two co-hosts (SPiE and the CNBP) are already exploring opportunities for an even larger follow-up conference to potentially take place in 2018.

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IMAGES AVAILABLE:

CNBP Director and Conference Chair Prof Mark Hutchinson.

<https://flic.kr/p/MDu5is>

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SPIE BioPhotonics Australasia conference logo

<https://flic.kr/p/Mz9vnz>

CONFERENCE INFORMATION:

<https://spie.org/conferences-and-exhibitions/bio-photonics-australasia>

ABOUT CNBP:

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 and RMIT 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/>

ABOUT SPIE

SPIE is the international society for optics and photonics, an educational not-for-profit organization founded in 1955 to advance light-based science, engineering, and technology. The Society serves nearly 264,000 constituents from approximately 166 countries, offering conferences and their published proceedings, continuing education, books, journals, and the SPIE Digital Library. In 2015, SPIE provided more than \$5.2 million in support of education and outreach programs. www.spie.org

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