



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **3D Printing to be featured at the ACO's National Conference in October**

Ever wondered.....what is next? Well 3D printing could become part of optometry practice sooner than you think.

3D printing technology has the potential to change the way we think about, design and manufacture items. It is already being used to print houses, guitar hangers, long-life food for astronauts and hamburgers.

The design and manufacture of small-scale frame lines will be feasible and affordable for the first time and human body parts are now able to be developed by the use of 3D scanning technologies combined with organic inks and thermoplastics.

Whatever shape or form 3D printing takes it's certainly going to impact on the industry in some very interesting ways.

This year's ACO National Conference will feature a presentation by Professor Gordon Wallace, a leading scientist in the field of electromaterials, who will provide an insight into 3D printing and its potential uses.

Prof Wallace's research interests include organic conductors, nanomaterials and electrochemical probe methods of analysis and the use of these in the development of intelligent polymer systems.

A current focus involves the use of these tools and materials in developing biocommunications from the molecular to skeletal domains in order to improve human performance via medical Bionics.

This topic will be discussed in further detail at the ACO National Conference in October, where Prof Gordon Wallace will present: "Three-dimensional Printing: Creating Complex Designs by Adding Layers."

The ACO National conference will be held on the 18 & 19 October 2014 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne. For more information and to register see the ACO website [www.aco.org.au](http://www.aco.org.au) or phone +61 3 9349 7477.

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