

Media Release

17 October 2019

ATN universities honoured to receive ARC Future Fellowship Grants

The Australian Technology Network of Universities (ATN) is proud that our universities received over \$10million worth of [grants](#) from the Australian Research Council (ARC) to enable them to continue their vital work on research with impact.

12 grants have been approved for the University of South Australia, Curtin University, RMIT University and UTS. Thanks to this grant funding, UniSA Fellow Doctor Haolan Xu will investigate the salt crystallisation problem with solar-steam desalination. At a time when Australia is going through significant drought, his research will hopefully enable safe desalination at a price available to everyone.

RMIT Universities Dr Ramon Lobato is analysing the cultural impacts of Smart TVs, a technology that has exploded in recent years, examining peoples viewing habits and the effects on public access.

ATN's Executive Director Luke Sheehy said 'ATN universities continue to be Australia's leading collaborators with industry as demonstrated by these grants from the ARC. These grants cover a wide range of areas across different fields, but their research outcomes will make a difference to all Australians in the years to come'.

A full list of grants to our universities can be found following page.

8/1 Geils Court Deakin ACT 2600
E: info@atn.edu.au
T: +61 2 5105 6740
 Follow us @ATNunis

University	Funding	Fellow	Description
UTS	\$1,014,000	Professor Longbing Cao	Modelling interactions embedded in big data sets and complex systems. Expected to yield new-generation theories for unsupervised learning of complex interactions in real big data.
UTS	\$870,000	Dr Zhenguo Huang	Controlling the synthesis of boron-based two-dimensional materials. This will advance knowledge of synthetic chemistry, materials chemistry, materials engineering and physics and has possible applications in electronics and energy storage.
UniSA	\$876,038	Dr Cameron Bracken	Determining the extent to which micro RNAs function through “non-canonical” mechanisms within cell nuclei. Micro RNAs regulate the expression of almost all genes and biological processes. Expected to yield a better understanding of how they work, with future agricultural and therapeutic applications.
UniSA	\$738,020	Dr Zoe Doubleday	Tracing the geographic origins of seafood to better detect “seafood fraud”, using chemical variations in biominerals to map the origins of seafood. The outcome is to address environmental challenges and benefit the Australian economy.
UniSA	\$764,840	Dr Endre Szili	Understanding how electrically excited gas (plasma) jets deliver reactive oxygen and nitrogen species into tissue to combat disease. Hopes to realise the full potential of plasma in the life sciences while generating new knowledge across physics, chemistry and biology.
UniSA	\$890,287	Dr Haolan Xu	Solving the salt crystallisation problem with solar-steam desalination. This has the potential to accelerate the commercialisation and application of this technology to provide affordable clean water.
RMIT	\$894,148	Dr Ramon Lobato	Investigating the cultural impacts of using smart TVs in Australia. Smart TVs have changed the way content is discovered, accessed and viewed. Aims to advance policy knowledge of smart TV platforms and their effects on public access and viewing choices.
RMIT	\$927,662	Associate Professor Ellie Rennie	Showing the social consequences of using distributed ledger technology, including blockchains, for compliance, registries and regulatory processes. Expected to provide evidence as to the feasibility of using blockchains in place of legacy information systems.
Curtin	\$880,383	Dr Simone Ciampi	Creating new methods for the conversion of friction at vibrating metal-semiconductor contacts into a source of electricity, leading to an autonomous technology to power miniature electronics. Applications span health management to environmental sensing.
Curtin	\$739,302	Dr Mark Hackett	Visualising how changes in blood vessels during ageing effect the amount and distribution of metal ions in brain cells. This will benefit neuroscientists seeking to understand the neurobiology of metal ions with respect to maintaining healthy brain function.
Curtin	\$857,533	Dr Natasha Hurley-Walker	Exploring the entire visible sky with the future Square Kilometre Array ten times more deeply than before, fully characterising the life cycles of active galactic nuclei and previously undetected supernova remnants.
Curtin	\$821,000	Dr Jun Li	Developing a structure condition monitoring approach for infrastructure based on emerging digital technologies on image processing, data analytics and machine learning. Expected to improve infrastructure life cycle and safety.