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Q&A with Lachlan Carter

Lachlan Carter was born in Sydney in 1988 and is a postgraduate student at the University of New South Wales.

He completed his BSc (Chemistry) in 2011 at the University of New South Wales before working with BASF Construction Chemicals. He is currently undertaking a MPhil (Chemistry) with Professor Justin Gooding. His research aims to develop a new biosensor that combines the use of gold-coated magnetic nanoparticles and self-assembled monolayer modified electrodes.

He has presented his work at the ISE Satellite Student Regional Symposium on Electrochemistry/19th Australia-New Zealand Electrochemistry Symposium (19ANZES) in 2013.

What was your inspiration in becoming a chemist?
Since I was a child I have had a desire for knowledge, to know how and why the world works the way it does and then to use that knowledge to make a contribution to humanity. In school this desire for knowledge meant that science, in particular chemistry and physics were always my favourite subjects and so it was no surprise to those around me when I decided to undertake a chemistry degree at university. After finishing my undergraduate degree I worked in industry for a time. I found that the work wasn't very interesting to me, so I decided to undertake a postgraduate degree. Professor Justin Gooding offered me a position in his research group and from there I began working with nanoparticles and self-assembled monolayers.

What inspires you about ACN?
The combination of disciplines in the ACN, such as Science, Engineering and Medicine, provide a diverse knowledge base to build on that is very useful when conducting research. Furthermore the combination of the different disciplines means that it is possible to see a project develop from the initial conception, through research and development to a practical application.

At which upcoming conferences are you presenting in 2014/2015?
The ACN will be hosting its 4th International Nanomedicine conference in July and I hope to make a presentation there that covers the work I have achieved while undertaking my MPhil at UNSW. As for the rest of this year and next year? That will depend on whether or not I undertake a PhD.

How do you spend your spare time?
My hobbies are rather varied; I am just as happy reading a good science fiction book as I am playing...
a game of rugby. I guess it's most appropriate to say that what I like to do with my spare time depends on how I feel and who I am with at the time. Some of my favourite activities are snowboarding, sailing and gaming.

**Which profession would you choose if you were not a scientist?**
I have a hard time picturing myself as anything other than a scientist, but if I had to choose another profession I probably would have undertaken an electrical or carpentry apprenticeship.