

Molecules “mustered” for better cancer diagnosis

Meanwhile, the diagnoses of cancer and other diseases may soon become easier thanks to a collaboration between a Queensland research institute and a New Zealand biotechnology company. The new partnership between the Australian Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (AIBN) at the University of Queensland and Dunedin-based firm, Australo, will receive NZ\$281,250 in funding from the New Zealand Government's Australia New Zealand Biotechnology Partnership Fund (ANZBPF) and will help them develop a unique process in which individual biological molecules are 'mustered' and their properties measured as they pass through a gate. This is possible thanks to the elastic nanopore technology developed by Australo which the company has used to count and measure viruses.

The AIBN has the support of the Queensland government with \$20M in funding provided for the construction of the AIBN's state-of-the-art research facility. Queensland Chief Scientist Professor Peter Andrews has also commended the Australo-AIBN collaboration. “Projects like this are exactly why the Queensland and New Zealand governments have been working together to build our biotechnology research and industry capacity,” Professor Andrews said.