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**New cancer research technology for Royal North Shore's  
Kolling Institute**

media release

The Kolling Institute of Medical Research at Royal North Shore Hospital has invested in groundbreaking new technology that holds the promise of more accurate diagnoses and monitoring of both breast and pancreatic cancer.

The protein chip mass spectrometer will assist in identifying whether or not individual patients are responding positively to chemotherapy.

It is used to analyse complex protein mixtures in human tissue samples and is the first of its kind in Australia.

Professor Robert Baxter, Director of the Kolling Institute and Head of the Cellular and Diagnostic Proteomics Laboratory, said the new mass spectrometer allows Kolling researchers to analyse complex protein mixtures in human tissue samples by profiling hundreds of proteins simultaneously.

The protein mixtures create characteristic 'patterns' unique to particular cellular states or disease conditions, Prof Baxter said.

"By using these proteins to define conditions present in breast and pancreatic cancer we are able to very accurately distinguish cancer tissue from healthy tissue."

The new mass spectrometer cost around \$300,000 and was funded from research grants, Prof Baxter said. The purchase would further enhance the Kolling Institute's commitment to carrying out medical research of the very highest quality, he added.

The Kolling Institute is home to more than 250 staff and student medical researchers and one of Australia's largest medical research centres. Its researchers, scientists and clinicians are among the country's leaders in their fields.

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