



ANU COLLEGE OF MEDICINE & HEALTH SCIENCES

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## PUBLIC SEMINAR

The National Europe Centre and the ANU Menzies Centre for Health Policy are pleased to invite you to:

# How do we understand what it is that makes health technologies 'novel': a social science analysis of innovation in health.

## Professor Andrew Webster

Head, Department of Sociology, and Director, Science and Technology Studies Unit, The University of York, UK.

Professor Webster is currently a Visiting Fellow at the National Europe Centre, ANU

**Tuesday 14 February 2006, 5pm,**  
National Europe Centre  
1 Liversidge Street [67C]  
The Australian National University

Parking available in Balmain Lane, opposite University House. Light refreshments will be served after the seminar.

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This paper draws on recent UK-based research conducted by the author, who is Director of the ESRC/MRC research programme on Innovative Health Technologies. Drawing on various traditions in the sociology of health the paper seeks to distinguish between the continuities and discontinuities marking out health technology, drawing on examples from reproductive health, terminal care and elsewhere. It concludes with a consideration of the implications that novelty has for health policy.

Professor Andrew Webster is Director of the Science and Technology Studies Unit (SATSU), University of York and Head of Department of Sociology. [SATSU](#) undertakes research on the social and cultural implications of science and technology. He joined the Department in 1999 accompanied by his research Unit which was formerly located at APU in Cambridge. Until December 2005 he was Director of the £5m ESRC/MRC [Innovative Health Technologies Programme](#), and member of various national Boards and Committees (including the DoH Advisory Group on Genetics Research and the MRC Stem Cell Bank Steering Committee). He recently coordinated and co-authored the ESRC's [Research Ethics Framework](#). He will be national coordinator of the ESRC's new Stem Cells initiative (2005-8), and is a member of the Royal Society's Expert Working Group on Informatics.

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*Please forward this invitation to anyone who may be interested.*

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