

PowerLab Versatility Provides Large Cost Savings for 20 Year User, University of Wollongong

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In 1988 several scientists at the University of Wollongong pioneered the use of a compact, inexpensive computer-based data acquisition and analysis system that had been developed by the newly-established company, ADInstruments. The scientists had the foresight to reject the bulky, high maintenance paper chart recorders that were more commonly-used at this time.

Twenty years later, ADInstruments data acquisition systems are being used extensively at Wollongong University. They play an important role in helping to educate our future scientists in their knowledge and understanding of physiology. ADInstruments' PowerLab systems are used in practical laboratory sessions for five of the degree courses offered by University's School of Health Sciences: Science, Exercise Science and Rehabilitation, Nutrition and Dietetics, Health Sciences and Medical Science.



The convenience of PowerLab systems has enabled their integration into the majority of laboratory sessions in the fields of exercise physiology, cardiorespiratory physiology and respiratory physiology.

Cost-Effective Solutions for Changing Needs

Ms Kellie Ridges, the Manager of the School of Health Sciences has administered the acquisition of the School's undergraduate teaching equipment for a number of years. From Kellie's perspective, the key strength of the PowerLab system is its ability to provide cost effective solutions for the changing needs of the School.

"Once you have a PowerLab system, it is relatively inexpensive to add extra functionality. For example, when our educators wanted more ECG machines for 12 lead ECG experiments we reviewed our options. We could get new ECG machines at around \$6000 each or ECG pods with switch boxes for use with PowerLab systems for well under \$1000 each. Choosing the ECG Pods to supplement our existing machines saved the school many thousands of dollars," said Kellie.

According to Kellie, PowerLab systems have provided many other cost efficiencies. "When our reaction-time machine stopped working, we purchased a low cost Push Button transducer for PowerLab and made a settings file in PowerLab's Chart software to do the same job. It was a successful solution that cost much less than a new machine. PowerLab's versatility has enabled it to become an integral and important part of the education syllabus for the School of Health Sciences."

Maximizing PowerLab Usage for Extra Cost Savings

The School of Health Sciences has been able to make extra cost savings by taking advantage of the portability and capability of every PowerLab system. Each PowerLab has been placed on an individual trolley, enabling its use in five different laboratories for five different degree courses. In addition, some students who have become familiar with PowerLab's basic features during their undergraduate studies have chosen to use PowerLab for their postgraduate studies.



About the University of Wollongong

The University of Wollongong is an international research institution providing undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, located in NSW, Australia. It is ranked in the Top 500 world universities by the respected Shanghai Jiao Tong Academic Ranking of World Universities, 2007.

About ADInstruments

In 2008 ADInstruments is celebrating 20 years as a world-leading provider of computer-based data acquisition and analysis systems for life science research and education. Based on the PowerLab® data acquisition system with LabChart®, Scope™ and LabTutor® software, ADInstruments products record, display and analyze life science data quickly and efficiently, whether it is to speed up research projects, or to advance understanding of scientific concepts in biomedical classrooms. PowerLab systems are used in the world's best academic institutions, pharmaceutical and contract research laboratories, government organizations, and a wide range of private companies. ADInstruments has offices in the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, India, China, Malaysia and Chile and in 2008 is opening offices in Brazil and Malaysia

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