from his research have led to significant, tangible improvements in the practice of minerals processing and particle and surface technology, delivering benefits for industry worldwide. Professor Ralston has held professorships in Cape Town (South Africa), Lulea (Sweden), Bristol (UK), Utah and Florida (USA), and he holds an honorary doctorate from the Abo Akademi in Finland, as well as honorary professorships in materials science and engineering at Tianjin University in China, and the Graduate School of Engineering at the University of Tokyo. He was also the principal researcher who led the initiative to establish the Australian Mineral Science Research Institute in 2006, a world-leading virtual institute in particle science and engineering based at The Wark™.

In 2008, Professor Ralston was made an Officer of the Order of Australia, and the previous year he was honoured as South Australian of the Year and also South Australian Scientist of the Year. In 2009, he received the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering Council’s prestigious Clunies Ross Lifetime Achievement Award. He is also a Fellow of both the Australian Academy of Science, and the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering.

The Wark™ has extensive state-of-the-art research facilities, internationally renowned researchers and an international client base of major companies. The Wark™ is renowned for its creative and flexible approach to research and development, where a mixture of fundamental and applied research is conducted across a wide range of project areas. Research in The Wark™ embraces bio and polymer interfaces, colloids and nanostructures, and minerals processing. Some of the Institute’s research work is aimed at improving existing processes in industry, whilst other efforts lead to new technologies.

The Ralston Medal for Excellence in Physical Chemistry

The Ralston Medal has been established to recognise excellence and innovation in the application of physical chemistry which benefits the minerals and pharmaceutical industries. The Medal will be awarded biennially recognising the most outstanding journal article in the field of Physical Chemistry published in the last five years.

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