



Ideas man . . . Dr Paul Dastoor in the Newcastle University physics department yesterday. *Picture: ROBERT McKELL*

## Hospitals' drip drugs to come in gas can

SCIENTISTS in Newcastle are developing a tiny gas cannister, similar to those used in air freshener dispensers, to revolutionise drug treatment for medical patients.

The Mobi-Drip, a new drug-infusion device, has the potential to streamline health care both in hospitals and in the field at medical emergencies.

The cannister "squeezes" the fluid-filled bag with constant pressure, delivering a measured dose of drugs intravenously.

"The current infusion devices are expensive, while the cheaper devices with the bladder can be inaccurate," said Paul Dastoor, from Newcastle University's Faculty of Science and Information Technol-

ogy yesterday. "You have ambulance officers at scenes like the London bombing, holding the drip bags aloft to administer drugs to the injured. If every ambulance carried one of these new devices, you wouldn't see that.

"You wouldn't need to hold the drip up high because the constant gas pressure maintains a constant

flow of drugs. That would free up the ambulance officer for other duties."

Dr Dastoor said the Mobi-Drip would also mean patients could return home with the device to complete their drug treatment, instead of staying in hospital. "It costs \$600 a day to keep a patient in hospital so the savings would be great," said Dr Dastoor.