

MEDIA RELEASE

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Printing Parts for Bodies: New eBook tells the story of an impending revolution in medicine

We may be only a few years away from a time when every major hospital will be equipped with 3D printing capabilities. Why? To re-grow and repair human tissue including bone, cartilage, muscle and nerves, all through a digital fabrication method called 3D BioPrinting.

A new eBook, *3D BioPrinting: Printing Parts for Bodies*, released this week tells the story of this impending revolution in medicine.

Written by scientists, engineers and ethicists at the forefront of this emerging field, the book offers an entry-level understanding of the principles behind the engineering, the biology and the strategy of this new clinical approach to medicine.

Co-Author Doctor Cathal O'Connell said he and his colleagues were motivated to write the book to give audiences a realistic understanding of the technology.

"The whole field of medicine could be upturned by this technology," he said. "But at the same time, the hype of 3D printing is often overblown. We wanted to present the reality, to provide a general audience with an understanding of what the technology is capable of now, and where it's going in 5 or 20 years."

3D BioPrinting is being enabled by a convergence of several revolutionary scientific advances including 3D printing, tissue engineering and biomaterials which can seamlessly integrate into the body.

Co-Author Professor Gordon Wallace (Director, ARC Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science) said that these advances are challenging how researchers think about medical science.

"3D BioPrinting of structural materials has already provided practical solutions to medical challenges," Wallace said. "As 3D BioPrinting evolves to include printing of living cells, we will be faced with both technical opportunities and social challenges."

3D BioPrinting: Printing Parts for Bodies is available through creatavist.com.

The book will be launched at a public event on Wednesday 1 October 2014, 11am, at Questacon in Canberra. The launch will feature live 3D printing demonstrations and short talks from one of the book's authors Professor Gordon Wallace and Professor Graham Durant (Director, Questacon – The National Science and Technology Centre). RSVP Natalie 02 4221 3239.

Media Opportunity: Launch of *3D BioPrinting: Printing Parts for Bodies*, Wednesday 1 October, 2014, 11am – 12midday, Questacon, King Edward Terrace, Parkes ACT. RSVP Natalie - nfoxon@uow.edu.au

Review Copies: www.3dbioprint.creatavist.com/3dbioprinting (code ACES-MEDIA). Printed copies are available on request.

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