

MEDIA RELEASE

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3D printing body parts in Melbourne

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 at <http://3dbioprint.creatavist.com>

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Media Opportunity: 'Wine, cheese and printed body parts' evening eBook launch event.

Monday 10 November, 2014, 5.30pm–7.30pm, Bar Lourinha, 37 Little Collins St Melbourne

Hosted by Prof. Mark Cook (University of Melbourne), with short presentations by Prof. Peter Choong (St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne) and Prof. Gordon Wallace (University of Wollongong), plus 3D printing demonstrations.

Registration essential: www.3dbioprintingbooklaunch.eventbrite.com.au

Review Copies: <https://3dbioprint.creatavist.com/3dbioprinting> (when prompted for payment, use coupon code ACES-MEDIA). Printed copies are available on request.

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