

MEDIA RELEASE

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Wollongong's in-hospital 3D printing lab is a first for NSW

Wollongong lives up to the title of City of Innovation today, with the opening of the first new 3D printing laboratory within a hospital in NSW.

Housed in Wollongong Private Hospital's 'Innovation Hub', the lab will bring together researchers, clinicians and industry representatives in one location to fast-track the development of next generation health devices that are inspired by the needs of the clinicians and patients within the hospital.

The hub, based at Wollongong Private Hospital, contains a 3D printing facility that will be run by ARC Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science (ACES) and Australian National Fabrication Facility (ANFF) Materials Node personnel. Both are headquartered at UOW's Innovation Campus.

The lab is the brainchild of local vascular surgeon Dr Arthur Stanton, who founded and funded the facility with the vision of providing a creative, collaborative and commercial space for clinicians and researchers.

ACES Director Professor Gordon Wallace said the hub is all about bringing the right people together in a focused, creative space to accelerate the development of new medical devices.

"Wollongong has an opportunity to be a world-class technology region," he said.

"We have all the right ingredients in a university recognised for its excellence in materials science, a national 3D printing facility and capabilities through the Australian National Fabrication Facility, along with a thriving medical sector."

"This hub brings all of those experts together to help clinicians turn their ideas about how to improve patient care into real-world devices," he said.

Importantly, the hub will also house industry experts, such as Australian company Anatomics, who are a leading 3D printing medical implant manufacturer and medical technology developer.

Anatomics Executive Chairman Paul D'Urso said the facility was a new benchmark for Australian innovation collaboration.

"This hub is a real example of what can be achieved with collaboration and commitment to building a future industry not just for Wollongong, but for the Australian medical technology sector."

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Media Opportunity

The medical innovation hub will be opened 10.30am Monday 14 November at Wollongong Private Hospital.

Prof Wallace and Paul D'Urso will be available for interview.

Please wear enclosed shoes for access to the 3D printing laboratory.

The partners

The medical innovation hub brings together the following organisations:

The ARC Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science (ACES)

Based at the University of Wollongong's Innovation Campus, ACES is a multidisciplinary research group with a focus on developing functional devices for applications including batteries, solar cells and systems that interact with living tissue.

ACES will provide staff, expertise and customised printing technologies for the hub, as well as running an awareness program regarding the latest advances.

The Australian National Fabrication Facility (ANFF)

Based at the University of Wollongong alongside ACES, ANFF provides access to world class fabrication resources and expertise.

ANFF will provide staff, expertise and equipment for the hub.

Wollongong Private Hospital

Opened in January this year, Wollongong Private is revolutionising regional health, giving patients greater choice and options in care, bringing new services to the area and enabling private healthcare patients to be treated closer to home.

Anatomics

Anatomics is a Melbourne-based and Australian-owned medical device company that manufactures and markets surgical products to surgeons locally and over 30 countries around the world.

Anatomics is a leader in 3D medical implant manufacturing and will provide the project with design, development and software expertise. Anatomics will provide an opportunity for University students to have exposure to the design and biomodelling of implants.