



Jillian Skinner
Minister for Health

MEDIA RELEASE

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NOVEL 3D IMPLANTS CHANGING YOUNG LIVES

Health Minister Jillian Skinner has opened a laboratory at the Children's Hospital at Westmead that specialises in 3D printing to create novel implants for children with lower limb deformities.

The NSW Government funded the refurbishment of the Engineering and Prototyping of Implants for Children laboratory (EPIC 3D). The NSW Medical Devices Fund has helped fund innovative technologies in the laboratory.

"3D technology is revolutionising implants, which can now be tailored to a child's individual needs. This means less time in hospital, a shorter period of healing and, most importantly, better functioning for the growing child," Mrs Skinner said.

Professor David Little is a world renowned children's orthopaedic surgeon and researcher at the Kids Research Institute, which is the research division of the Children's Hospital at Westmead. He leads the multi-disciplinary team of surgeons, engineers, biomedical scientists and allied health professionals in implant design and development who will utilise the new laboratory.

"Currently we have six innovative devices in varying stages of development for commercialisation, with a view to exporting them globally," Professor Little said.

The first device to be launched to market in late 2016 will be SyMaxys, an implant for children suffering from brittle bone disease or malformed legs.

Current implant rod technology has a 40% failure rate. Professor Little said the SyMaxys implant provides the stability and support required to correct the disorder, while accommodating bone growth. The novel design extends the life of the device, minimising the need for invasive replacement surgery.

The SyMaxys technology received a NSW Medical Device Fund award of \$705,000 in 2014. A Lane Cove company has been engaged for product development and manufacture of the SyMaxys technology.