



Bones and breast tissue could benefit from 3D printing in Surgery

Friday 1 August, 2014

The combination of tissue engineering strategies and 3D printing technologies has the potential for application in reconstructive surgery, according to Professor Dietmar W. Hutmacher who says that biofabrication is the way of the future.

Professor Hutmacher will be giving a plenary lecture to surgeons attending the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) Queensland Annual State Meeting this Saturday.

Addressing the theme of 'Surgeons in a 3D World', Professor Hutmacher will present the work from his interdisciplinary team themed "from bench to bedside" – the first clinical results and detailed analysis of short and long-term bone regeneration studies in preclinical animal models of biofabricated bone grafts.

"The drive to develop bone grafts for the filling of major gaps in skeletal structure has led to major research advances towards developing biomaterials for bone engineering," Professor Hutmacher said.

"There is also potential in the area of reconstruction of breast tissue by using an holistic biofabrication technology platform and the opportunities for application are inspiring."

The Queensland State Meeting is part of an annual series of events held by the Regional Committees of RACS as an opportunity to bring peers together to discuss and review issues related to their own workplaces.

Surgeons will receive a range of presentations on topics such as new treatments for carcinoma, redesigning informed consent and 3D printing, as well as discussions around how the College is fostering pre-vocational skills with Junior Doctors, and how it is dealing with doctors' health.

There will also be talks with the Health Ombudsman and presentations from Trainee surgeons, medical students and junior doctors. Professor Mark Smithers will present Surgery – Beyond the Ivory Tower for the David Theile Lecture.

The weekend will end with a light-hearted 'Great Debate' on the topic 'Do Politics and Medicine Mix', with a range of specialists discussing the positives and negatives of mixing passions.

MEDIA NOTE: Participants include: Dr William Glasson (LNP candidate for seat of Griffith 13/14), Dr John Herron (Chairman of the Australian National Council on Drugs and former Senator), Dr Alex Douglas (Member for Gaven), Dr Anthony Lynham (Labor member for seat of Stafford), and Dr Chris Davis (LNP former member for Stafford and previous president of the AMA).

The event will run Friday 1 to Sunday 3 August at the Sheraton Noosa.

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