



13/11/15

## New technology means less open heart surgery for children

**Media Call – Monday 16 November, 10am (see below for details)**

Children living with heart conditions will now be less likely to require open heart surgery thanks to the installation of new surgical equipment at The Children's Hospital at Westmead.

The multi-million dollar Cardiac Catheter Interventional Suite (CCIS), generously funded by Sargents Pies Charitable Foundation, will give doctors the ability to perform a range of cardiac procedures through minimally invasive catheter interventions, avoiding the need to open up the chest cavity.

The suite will offer safer and more efficient treatment for children with complex heart conditions, reducing their exposure to radiation and dramatically improving their recovery time.

"Each year, our Heart Centre for Children performs more than 550 surgical procedures and 250 cardiac catheterisations, with this number expected to increase by five to ten per cent annually," Associate Professor Gary Sholler, Head of the Heart Centre for Children, said.

"Previously many of these children would have spent several weeks in hospital recovering from open heart surgery but thanks to Sargents Pies Charitable Foundation's extraordinary \$3.4 million gift we can now perform many of these procedures through minimally invasive catheter interventions, helping us to reduce that recovery time considerably and get our patients back home in just days," Associate Professor Sholler said.

Heart conditions treated using cardiac catheterisation include correcting structural abnormalities, unblocking heart blockages, closing holes and implanting heart valves.

The state-of-the-art facility will also provide the Hospital with the capability, for the first time, to perform cardiac catheter procedures at the same time as other surgical procedures in a unique hybrid environment.

"Doctors will now have greater flexibility when treating patients with high-end, complex cardiac conditions without the need for rescheduled procedures in the general operating theatres. This will help to reduce the number of anaesthetics used but most importantly, will help create a more seamless path to a repaired heart," Associate Professor Sholler said.

**MEDIA CALL;** The Cardiac Catheter Interventional Suite will be officially opened on **Monday, 16 November** at **10am** by **two-year-old cardiac patient, Jeremiah Khattar, Associate Professor Gary Sholler** and **Logistics Manager of Sargents Pies, Mr Brian Andrews**. Jeremiah was diagnosed with hypoplastic left heart syndrome when he was born and will likely require use of the new suite in the future.

The Children's Hospital at Westmead is the only hospital in New South Wales with a paediatric cardiac catheter laboratory where invasive investigations and interventional therapy for children with cardiac disease can be performed.