



17 June, 2013

Meat pies improve kids' health

After 18 years and almost 229,000 surgical procedures The Children's Hospital at Westmead's operating theatres have undergone a long-awaited \$2.6m upgrade.

The five new theatres, generously funded by Sargents Pies Charitable Foundation, mean the Hospital now houses the most technologically advanced operating theatres in any paediatric facility in Australia.

The state-of-the-art suites feature an integrated communication system allowing the surgical team to communicate between theatres as well as with observers in an adjoining conference room, or remotely via teleconference. This capability means consulting can occur without the surgical team needing to leave the sterile field, and opportunities for education, including with overseas clinicians, are vastly improved.

Video cameras around the room can be controlled from both within the theatre as well as externally and offer views of the surgical table, the greater theatre and, during laparoscopic procedures, can show what the surgeons are looking at inside the patients' body.

Specialised lighting, intraoperative sterile control panels and pendant mounted monitors help reduce fatigue during long and complex surgical cases, medical imaging can be accessed without having to move away from the operating table and images from the surgery can be uploaded directly into a patient's medical record.

Jason Simpson, Nurse Manager of Perioperative Services says "The technology means that our surgeons can now operate more efficiently and we have a much greater scope in terms of what we can achieve with education.

"We are at the tip of the iceberg as we're still fine-tuning the way we use the equipment, but the possibilities are incredible."

Dr Jonty Karpelowsky, Surgical Staff Specialist, adds "These theatres have enhanced our ability to undertake extremely complex operations using tiny incisions, moving us that step closer to curing without scarring.

"In addition to this we have the opportunity to teach surgeons through real-time digital telecommunications both nationally and internationally so that all children, irrespective of where they live, can have access to this type of care."

Sargents Pies Charitable Foundation has donated almost \$9m to the Hospital over the past 10 years, allowing for continued improvement of vital pieces of equipment across the facility.

Karl Fretwell, National Sales and Marketing Manager from Sargents Pies Charitable Foundation, said "We are so proud to support such a wonderful facility, knowing that we are making an impact on the health of children through our donations.

"Being in hospital must be such a frightening experience for a child, so being able to provide equipment that can help the surgeons minimise scarring and the need for a lengthy hospital stay is worth every cent."

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY

WHAT: Official opening of upgraded operating theatres, including tour & demonstration

WHEN: Wednesday 19 June, 2013

6.00pm sharp – 7.00pm

** After-hours event is necessary for uninterrupted functioning of theatres*

WHERE: The Children's Hospital at Westmead

Cnr Hawkesbury Rd & Hainsworth St, Westmead

WHO: **Dr Jonathan Karpelowski, Surgical Staff Specialist, The Children's Hospital at Westmead**

Niamh McDonald & family, 18mo surgical patient

At just 12 months old, Niamh underwent keyhole surgery to remove the lower part of her lung, following diagnosis of a congenital cystic adenomatoid malformation.

Two days after surgery she was discharged from hospital.

Three days after surgery her family were able to take her to the beach.

This was possible because of medical technology and the skill of Dr Karpelowski. The capabilities have been further improved with this recent upgrade and the impact of this donation on patients and their families is truly significant.

Karl Fretwell, Sargents Pies Charitable Foundation

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