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Australia invests $400k in Kolling Orthopaedic Biomechanics Robotic Arm

September 23, 2022 | News

Sophisticated robot drives innovation across musculoskeletal care



A $400,000 robot which could significantly improve hip and knee replacements is now operational at the Kolling Institute, a joint venture between the Northern Sydney Local Health District and the University of Sydney, Australia.

Known as KOBRA or the Kolling Orthopaedic Biomechanics Robotic Arm, the new technology delivers an advanced testing facility, while greatly increasing research capabilities.

It is the largest of its kind in Australia and one of just two SimVitro robots in the country.

Researchers anticipate the information and data provided by the new robotic technology will be applied across disciplines, extending research capabilities and leading to new surgical techniques.

The orthopaedic biomechanics robot is not only expected to advance hip and knee replacements, but is also likely to assist surgeons working to repair chronic shoulder instability.

The robot is set to lead to new collaborations with industry and other health partners, and will contribute to our national implant testing capabilities.

Image caption- L-R- Associate Professor Elizabeth Clarke, from the University of Sydney and Director of the Kolling Institute's Murray Maxwell Biomechanics Laboratory; Professor Bill Walter, Royal North Shore Hospital orthopaedic surgeon and Professor of Orthopaedics and Traumatic Surgery at the University of Sydney