

In addition to bioreabsorbable scaffolds, researchers will also look to develop 3D printable tissues that can replace portions of a patient's jaw or gums that have been removed or damaged during oral surgery.

"With NTU's strength in biomedical engineering solutions and global leadership in 3D printing, we are well positioned to create breakthroughs for clinical work and technological advancements in dentistry. Increasingly, 3D printing is the preferred route taken by many industries to produce prototypes rapidly, so by developing the ability to print bone scaffolds, real tissue and organs, it will directly impact the way healthcare professionals treat their patients in future," said NTU Engineering Professor Ng Wun Jern.

While a \$1M (SGD) investment in 3D printing is hardly a monumental sum, the tide is certainly shifting for 3D printing and investments in the technology are trending upward. As more collaborative efforts between academia and industry begin to arise the opportunities for additive manufacturing to make its mark on industry are sure to increase as well.