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## **NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS**

### **3D Ops, Erlanger Health System Launch Study of 3D Model Printing for Pre-Surgical Planning**

**Chattanooga, TN** -- 3D Operations, Inc. (3D Ops) and Erlanger Health System have partnered to conduct the world's first hospital-wide study of printing 3D models of patient-specific anatomy to help surgeons plan procedures before entering the operating room.

The study will encompass all Erlanger surgical departments to establish ways that 3D printing can improve surgeries and patient outcomes. Preliminary research shows that 3D models replicating specific body parts greatly enhance patient outcomes, and this hospital-wide study will clearly establish many points of value for both patients and surgeons.

The 3D models are exact replicas of organs that doctors can use to plan surgery or practice medical procedures. The 3D printer uses images from patients' MRI or CT scans as a template and creates a model from layers and layers of rubber, plastic, or other synthetic materials. The models can also help train medical students and demonstrate complicated procedures to patients.

The study will be conducted over the next six months at Erlanger Health System in Chattanooga. "We are thrilled to be working at the forefront of this revolutionary technology with 3D Ops," said Kevin M. Spiegel, FACHE, President and CEO of Erlanger Health System. "There is no question 3D printing will change the way surgeons plan for their procedures, improve patient satisfaction and outcomes, and enhance medical training at hospitals around the world."

"The results of this extensive study will clearly establish the value of 3D printing in improving patient outcomes," said Keith Campbell, President of 3D Ops.

"We believe these efforts will positively impact the lives of thousands of patients and their families."

In addition, this study will establish new standards and protocols for using MRI, CT scans and other imaging methods for creating the 3D printed models. "We want to greatly reduce or eliminate exploratory surgery by using this amazing technology in pre-surgery planning," stated Blaise Baxter, MD, of Tennessee Interventional and Imaging Associates, Erlanger's imaging team.

#### **About 3D Operations, Inc.**

3D Operations, Inc. (3D Ops), based in Chattanooga, TN, is a 3D printing company providing patient-specific 3D-printed models to surgeons for pre-surgical planning. 3D Ops' Scan-To-Print™ system removes the overwhelming obstacles that hospitals face in adopting 3D printing. 3D Ops is dedicated to increasing value to healthcare and to dramatically enhance patient outcomes. For additional information, contact 3D Ops President Keith Campbell at [keith.campbell@3doperations.com](mailto:keith.campbell@3doperations.com) or visit [www.3doperations.com](http://www.3doperations.com).

#### **About Erlanger Health System**

The Erlanger Health System has five Tennessee-based medical campuses, including the region's only children's hospital and Level 1 Trauma Center, providing the highest level of trauma care. Erlanger is the nation's seventh largest public hospital system and has been recognized as "Chattanooga's number one hospital" by *US News & World Report* for four consecutive years. Affiliated with the University of Tennessee College Of Medicine Chattanooga, Erlanger is also the region's only academic teaching center and treats more than a quarter million patients every year. For more information, visit [www.erlanger.org](http://www.erlanger.org).

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