

MEET THE BAIRD INSTITUTE

OUR ORGANISATION

The Baird Institute, a Sydney-based charitable organisation formed in 2001, is the only dedicated cardiothoracic surgical training and research institute in Australia. Our mission is to foster research and apply science to improve the outcomes for patients facing heart or lung surgery.

We have a strong collaboration with Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPAH), where our team performs more than 650 heart operations and 350 lung procedures each year, making it the largest heart and lung surgical program in New South Wales.

OUR FOUNDING STORY

The Baird Institute was established in honour of Professor Douglas K Baird, a remarkable cardiothoracic surgeon, to continue his life-saving research, leading medical innovations in heart and lung surgery. Professor Baird believed that essential research into heart and lung disease was being done, but adequate time or money was not being directed towards advancements in surgical techniques and surgical technology.

Formed on this principle, The Baird Institute prides itself on continual investment in research and training, enabling it to remain at the forefront of innovation, surgical robotics and revolutionary industry technology.



THE PROBLEM

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is a major cause of death in Australia, responsible for causing 26% of all deaths. On average, 118 Australians die from CVD each day, or one person every 12 minutes. Around 14% of all deaths each year in Australia result from lung disease, i.e. 1 in 7 deaths. These deaths put a huge financial burden on our health system.

OUR WORK

- **Research:** We believe that research is a mandatory part of surgical training, so our cardiothoracic surgical trainees conduct and participate in clinical and applied research alongside our academic surgeons.
- **Clinical Trials:** We run and participate in 18 clinical trials at RPAH, which have contributed to national and international findings.
- **Innovative Surgical Solutions Program:** We work to develop innovative surgical techniques, resources and evidence-based care, to improve the quality of patients' lives post-surgery.
- **Training and Development:** We have a significant focus on providing training and educational scholarships and grants.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

The specialty surgeries of the Institute include major aortic reconstruction, minimally invasive heart valve and lung surgery, robotic surgery and beating heart bypass surgery.

The institute has had remarkable success with placing the smallest heart support machine (called an Impella) into the heart, guided by an even smaller 3D ultrasound probe, placed through a neck vein to look at the heart. Over time, this procedure will treat severe heart failure in critical patients without moving them from the Intensive Care Unit.

OUR TESTIMONIALS

"The Baird Institute's ongoing commitment to research and investment in technology has given my husband a second chance at life. It was because of their research that my husband's heart surgery was such a success." – Nellie

"If I can take something positive from my surgery, it is an appreciation of the importance of research in medical science by The Baird Institute. It is assuring that the serious health needs of our citizens are dealt with by highly skilled specialists who rely on important research work. The importance of the work of the Institute cannot be overstated." – Tim

