**Colonoscopy simulator**

_Surgical Science and CSIRO has together with EPFL developed a cutting-edge colonoscopy simulator._

The highly successful platform for the LapSim System will be used to complete the development of this high-quality colonoscopy simulator.

While interacting with a computer-based simulation of the human colon, physicians will be able to train the various ways to manage complications and diverse scenarios. Patients will benefit from more highly skilled physicians, reduced risks and improved screening efficacy. A colonoscopy is a difficult procedure to master and gastroenterologists require hundreds of supervised procedures to reach an expert level of proficiency.

Ninety percent of bowel cancers can be treated successfully if identified early, yet a shortage of trained doctors means there are long waiting lists for colonoscopies. Just 40 percent of people with bowel cancer are diagnosed in the early stages.

According to Dr Trevor Lockett from the Preventative Health Flagship, on average 90 Australians die from colon cancer each week. “As such, early diagnosis has become a national health priority.” Dr Lockett said the licensing of the technology is a key and exciting step in making the simulator available for training in the near future. The aim is to provide at least 20 new devices in Australia and to collaborate strongly with local training facilities to ensure maximum benefits are realised as quickly as possible.

**CSIRO** the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, is Australia’s national science agency and one of the largest and most diverse research agencies in the world.

**EPFL** With more than 250 laboratories and research groups on campus, EPFL is one of Europe’s most innovative and productive technology institutes. Its unique structure facilitates transdisciplinary research and encourages partnerships with other institutions as well as with the industry.