

Heartening news for transplant patients as groundbreaking Australian research set to double the time a donor heart can exist outside the recipient

A world-first technique has been developed by Australian scientists at the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute (VCCRI) and St. Vincent's Hospital (SVH) that will almost double the life of donor hearts being transported for transplant surgery.

Medical scientists from the Sydney-based Institute and Hospital successfully trialed a new combination of drugs extending the time a donor heart can spend in transit, from the current four- to five-hour limit, up to 14 hours.

"The longer a donor heart lives outside the recipient, the more it will deteriorate, increasing the risk of injury or even death during transplantation, due to restricted blood flow," said Professor Bob Graham, Executive Director of the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute.

"If we can successfully preserve the donor heart for a longer period, we will reduce deterioration and therefore allow the heart to function more quickly and effectively after surgery," added Professor Graham. "This is a major issue given the vast size of countries like Australia and the time it can take to transport a heart from a donor to a recipient."

Researchers say the technique will give greater scope to accept a variety of donors, including those from interstate or overseas.

"In time, we will be able to draw from a bigger pool of donors- those hearts we used to strike off the list because they were perhaps too far away, a little older or less than perfect, and therefore more prone to deterioration, could now be suitable," explained Professor Graham.

"At the moment, it's uncommon for a heart from Perth or New Zealand to be used for a recipient in Sydney, because the organ has to be absolutely perfect for the transplant to be successful," added Professor Graham. "Using this technique will give us more time and far superior post-transplant heart function, making this scenario far more commonplace."

The research, which has attracted the attention of the prestigious American Journal of Transplantation, found the optimal preservation technique combines Celsior, the existing commercial preservation solution, with the two drugs cariporide and Glyceryl Trinitrate (GTN).

Following successful trials in rodents, scientists carried out trials on pigs with a similar weight range and consistency to an average human, to

mimic clinical heart transplantation.

Head of the Cardiac Physiology and Transplantation Laboratory at the VCCRI, Director of the Heart Failure Clinic at St Vincent's Hospital and senior author of the research paper, Professor Peter Macdonald, said the benefits for human transplant patients will be substantial.

"While it's unlikely we would see the extreme 14-hour limit translate to clinical trials, we know this technique has the potential to double preservation time, meaning significantly improved heart function, less time spent recovering in hospital and a reduced risk of post-operative mortality for patients.

"These results are extremely encouraging for us. We hope to begin clinical trials as soon as possible to confirm our predictions, hopefully within the next year," added Professor Macdonald.

Fashion icon Alex Perry launches glamorous rugs with Australia's leading rug company Designer Rugs

Two of Australia's leading design brands collaborate to turn Greek inspirations and red carpet glamour into rugs! Undoubtedly Australia's premier couturier, Alex Perry has added a new level of glamour to our fashion industry with his breathtaking gowns.



The designer 'du jour' for celebrity red-carpet dressing and high society weddings, Alex Perry is at the top of his game. Launching his eponymous label in the early 1990's, Alex's gowns were instantly acclaimed by the local media including Vogue Australia who rushed to feature his jewelled corsets and sexy sheaths in their main fashion shoots.

Fast forward twenty years and Alex has launched himself into interiors and his first foray into rug design.

Hand-made from 100% New Zealand wool, selected pieces feature Luscious pure silk and viscose. Weaving and carving techniques were used to create unique accents and definition.

This unique and inspiring collection features designs such as 'PALATI' which is inspired by an intricate gate seen in the National Gardens in Athens, 'ANTHI', 'RHODES', 'IPOGRAFI' featuring colours such as lime, mahogany, white and gun metal, 'NISAKI' and

'BIBELO' highlighted with Viscose and 'PSARAKI' which takes you on an underwater journey in the Aegean sea..... Alex Perry for Designer Rugs is available in the standard size of 200 x 300 cm and can be custom coloured and sized to suit any interior. Suitable for commercial and residential applications.

Quote Alex Perry:
"I wanted to pay homage to my Greek heritage striving to create something timeless and striking. Each Design tells a different story, revealing a distinct aspect of Greece and myself."

About Designer Rugs

As Australia's leading Rug Company, Designer Rugs is committed to creating both innovative and stylish hand-made rugs and carpets in any colour, design and size you desire. We pride ourselves on our attention to detail and personalised customer service. All of our products can be delivered worldwide.

We work closely with leading interior designers and architects on award winning global installations to ensure we are at the forefront of surface design. We use a unique finish that will transform your rug or carpet into an exclusive work of art. Our portfolio includes world renowned collections by Australian Artists and Designers.

Quote Yosi Tal, Managing Director, Designer Rugs:
"Alex has a certain Jois de vivre and approach to life that is incredibly positive and this reflects in his design ethos. We are very excited to collaborate with another of Australia's leading designers. His rugs are true to his Greek ancestry and bring a fresh wave of colour to the Designer Rugs collections."

Letter of the NSW Intercommunities Council to the Minister of Foreign Affairs The Hon Stephen Smith MP

The Hon Stephen Smith MP
Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs
Deputy Leader of The House
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir

I am writing to you on behalf of the NSW Intercommunities Council of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese which represents 30 Parishes and Communities, to express the concerns of the Greek community at large about the forthcoming visit to Australia of the FYROM Prime Minister, Mr Nikola Gruevski.

Australians of Greek background are concerned that documents which are signed during talks with Mr Nikola Gruevski may refer to the country's name as the 'Republic of Macedonia' rather than the internationally accepted name of FYROM, until a mutually acceptable agreement is found between FYROM and Greece.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the Australian Government over its consistent and unchanged policy to this sensitive issue.

Yours sincerely

Peter Theo OAM
President NSW Intercommunities Council of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese