



## **\*\*\*Media release\*\*\***

### **Elation after transplant first**

Austin Health surgeons made history over the weekend by completing Australia's first intestinal transplant and saving a man's life.

Professor Bob Jones and his team, assisted by English transplant surgeon Mr Darius Mirza, performed the complex multi-organ transplant in a 12 hour operation, finishing at 2am Saturday morning.

The surgeons replaced 33-year old Brendan Cole's small intestine, liver, pancreas and duodenum.

Professor Jones was relieved and elated after what had many years of planning and preparation, and completing what he described as "the most risky of all transplant operations."

"We have been able to successfully fulfil our dream. It's a wonderful, historic occasion," Professor Jones told a media conference on Saturday morning.

"This was a life-threatening situation for Brendan and the transplant will enable him to have a normal life," Professor Jones said.

The patient, Brendan Cole, has suffered worsening intestinal failure since infancy and has endured more than 30 hospital operations.

He was being kept alive only by Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN), a process of artificial feeding directly into the bloodstream that resulted in frequent infections and liver damage. Professor Jones said that without the transplant, Mr Cole's prognosis was poor.

Mr Cole is now in the Austin Hospital's Intensive Care Unit in a serious but stable condition.

Professor Bob Jones said, "We're delighted with the result, however Brendan has some significant challenges to face over the next few months. The risk of his body rejecting the new organs is high and infection is very common, so we're not out of the woods yet."

Austin Health plans to establish an ongoing intestinal transplant program.