

Health Care Heroes

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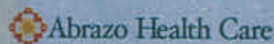
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SHADES *of the* FUTURE

Valley doctors and researchers participate
in medical innovations from 3-D surgery
to molecular-level imaging

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SHADES *of the* FUTURE

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Valley scientists and doctors are blazing new trails in all directions in the world of health care, from innovations at the bedside to cloning genes. Here are a few glimpses at new medical and biotech technology in use and under development at Phoenix-area hospitals and universities.

On the cover: Dr. Scott Elton, foreground, is director of pediatric neurosurgery at Cardon Children's Medical Center. The Banner Health facility is the first in Arizona to use TrueVision 3-D technology in surgery. Behind Elton, clockwise from left, are Roberta Ray, R.N.; Shannon Munden, R.N.; equipment tech Ivan Bonilla; and scrub tech Misty Lafferty. **Story, Page 4**



Imagine a surgery suite where the doctor and nurses are wearing 3-D glasses to monitor the image of a child's brain while a surgeon operates on it.

The Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery at the Cardon Children's Medical Center is the first in Arizona to install TrueVision Systems Inc.'s 3-D Surgical Visualization Platform, said Dr. Scott Elton, the center's director of pediatric neurosurgery.

Rob Reali, vice president of marketing and operations for Santa Barbara, Calif. - based TrueVision, confirmed the Banner Health facility is the first in Arizona to use its 3-D technology.

"And they are the second pediatric program in the world to adopt it," he said.

Reali is talking to other Arizona hospitals about the system, including Barrow Neurological Institute at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix, Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale and the Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System in Tucson.

Reali said he met Elton at a neurosurgical conference where he was demonstrating the company's 3-D system.

"Dr. Elton actually has a 3-D theater in his house," Reali said. "He imported some 3-D cartoons from Japan for his kids. He gets it."

"It offers a way to allow everybody to see the same thing the surgeon sees," Elton said.

The TrueVision system can help nurses and the anesthesiologists anticipate the surgeon's maneuvers. It also allows for remote consultation: Doctors outside the operating room can see what the surgeon is seeing via the Internet. Videos also are made available after a procedure for educational purposes.

"We believe it gives us a clear advantage in visualization, safety and efficiency for the surgical team and pediatric neurosurgical patient," Elton said.