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\$1m microscope launched at the children's hospital

By **Liam Pender**

A MILLION-DOLLAR research facility was opened at the Children's Hospital at Westmead yesterday.

The new Correlative Light and Electron Microscopy Suite is a facility with a high-end laser scanning microscope and a high-pressure freezer that is expected to keep the hospital at the forefront of world research into disease.

Advanced microscopy and imaging specialist Dr Laurence Cantrill, of the Kids Research Institute at the hospital, said without the new facility Westmead researchers would have been left behind.

"This will allow them to see objects down to 5000 times smaller than a millimetre," he said. "It allows them to take digital images of the material without slicing it. It means you have more intact samples and means you can now look at living samples."

Dr Cantrill said the facility would be used for research into cancer, neuromuscular diseases and orthopaedics.

"There are some children whose bones don't heal when they break so we're developing treatment to get the bones to heal," he said. "Previously, the limbs might have had to be amputated."

The facility is the result of a \$1.1 million of public and private funding including grants from the Cancer Institute NSW and the University of Sydney.