

Building the Vanderbilt Institute for Surgery and Engineering: How Decade-Long Grassroots Faculty Dream Was Fulfilled

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The Vanderbilt Institute for Surgery and Engineering brings physicians and engineers together to improve medicine. Our core facility is a 6,500 square foot dedicated research space in the Vanderbilt University Medical Center that contains a mock operating room, prototyping and collaboration space, engineering development space, lab pods, and office and desk space for faculty, postdocs, and students. Embedding this space in the medical center has facilitated many new collaborations and easy access for engineers to operating rooms and for physicians to engineering development spaces and personnel. The Institute is the result of a 10 year grassroots process whereby individual engineers and surgeons collaborating with one another in isolation formed a loose network that was continually strengthened strategically, and continually gathered support from the university that culminated in the formalization of the institute and the dedicated research space in the medical center. This talk will outline the process we undertook to make that a reality, and describe the Institute as it exists today.

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