



Cleveland Clinic signs memorandum with Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland to research, sell medical devices in Europe

by [Sarah Jane Tribble / Plain Dealer Reporter](#)

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The [Cleveland Clinic](#) signed a "memorandum of understanding" with the [Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland](#) on Thursday to work together to research, develop, test and eventually sell medical devices throughout Europe.

The Royal College "is networked into other parts of the world, and that has implications into the global reach of the Clinic," said Sean McEllin, a vice president for Enterprise Ireland, a national economic development group that has 13 offices across Europe.

Details of the Clinic's partnership with the Royal College were not disclosed. Executives say there is no concrete financial contract; rather, they expect to collaborate on new companies that will eventually make money.

The Clinic's agreement with the Royal College is expected to develop medical-devices companies that focus on general surgery and orthopedic and software technology. Together, the institutions will be able to run clinical trials for sales approval from both the European Union and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

"They're the old pros in navigating an international system," Chris Coburn, director of Cleveland Clinic Innovations, said of the Royal College agreement. "We can use their leverage, their experience and their network. That global reach comes back to benefit Cleveland."

The Royal College, which is a medical school with undergraduate and postgraduate studies, created a business development center last year. It will reap the benefits of the Clinic's expertise in developing start-up businesses.

Cleveland Clinic Innovations has already spun off more than two dozen companies with technologies ranging from heart pumps to wireless patient monitors.