

# Clinical research centre opened

Staff Reporter

**BANGALORE:** A centre for carrying out clinical research related medical formulations and diagnostic equipment for GE Healthcare was inaugurated at Whitefield on Monday.

The Manipal AcuNova Asia Clinical Research Centre will accelerate clinical trials reducing the time by two years before a new medication or equipment

was released, said GE Healthcare Chairman William Castell said. GE has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Manipal AcuNova, a joint venture established nine months ago.

The immediate work taken up by the Centre will be new diagnoses for Parkinson's.

Trials on medication to prevent the cardio vascular effects of diabetes will be taken up now. Under the MoU, GE will provide

technical infrastructure for carrying out research and clinical trials in a number of Indian cities for three years, Manipal AcuNova Vice-Chairman and Managing Director D.A. Prasanna said.

The pace of research, which will now gain momentum, will meet the needs of markets in Latin America and China where GE operates. The Whitefield facility will have an investment of \$ 2

million, in addition to Rs. 15 crores invested at the preliminary stages. The Centre is recruiting 150 more pharma and information technology personnel with specialisation in medical trials. Manipal AcuNova has three other centres, in Mangalore, Manipal and in Bangalore (attached to Manipal Hospital), which carry out work such as collecting samples and data that are later analysed.