Lynn Peterson, Media Relations
Office (404) 851-5849
Pager (404) 722-4355
lpeterson@sjha.org

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAINT JOSEPH'S PIONEERS NEWEST SURGICAL TECHNIQUE
Intuitive *daVinci* Robot Used for First Minimally-Invasive Gyn-Oncology Procedure

ATLANTA--(September 26, 2005) – Surgeons at Saint Joseph's Hospital -- and the first patient in Georgia -- broke new ground performing a *daVinci*-assisted laparoscopic hysterectomy and node dissection on September 12th.

"The daVinci has been used in a wide variety of cardiac, thoracic, prostatectomy and urological procedures since Saint Joseph's acquired it in 2002, but this is the first time it has been used for a complete hysterectomy and node dissection," says Joseph Boveri, MD, chief of gyn/gyn oncolgy at Saint Joseph's Hospital. "For women facing the diagnosis of cancer and the prospect of a complete hysterectomy, the *daVinci* robotic surgical system offers them a less-invasive procedure, faster recovery time and less scarring."

The *daVinci* Surgical System is operated by a surgeon sitting a few feet away from the patient at a console. Using a high-powered camera, the surgeon guides the arms of the robot that holds surgical tools which are inserted into the patient through small, keyhole-sized incisions. The *daVinci's* highly accurate instruments allow the surgeon to move his own hands - and the robots – to conduct precise movements with extraordinary control and range of motion. The *daVinci's* video monitoring system provides a three-dimensional view of the surgery with magnification ten times that of the naked eye.

"There were no major abdominal incisions for this fairly-involved procedure," says Dr. Boveri. "The patient has four dime-sized incisions making her recovery faster and easier."

Douglas Murphy, MD, chief of cardiothoracic surgery at Saint Joseph's and one of the nation's leading surgeons in minimally-invasive techniques, has been using the *daVinci* system for more than three years. Dr. Murphy has performed more than 225 procedures at Saint Joseph's including atrial septal defect repair (ASD), mitral valve repair and thymectomy, and is the only hospital in Atlanta offering minimally-invasive techniques for open heart surgeries. Dr. Murphy and other Saint Joseph's surgeons also perform coronary artery bypass, diagnostic procedures as well as lung resections. In addition, Saint Joseph's is the clinical trial site for a procedure to improve cardiac vascularization (transmyocardial revascularaization) in patients who are not candidates for heart bypass. Dr. Murphy also leads the *daVinci* training program for physicians using the robotic system from around the world.

"The patient benefits of this technique are tremendous including shortened recovery time, less blood loss and reduced rates of infection," says Dr. Murphy. "And, there is far reaching potential for the technique including long-

distance remote surgeries that would allow surgeons to participate and guide procedures that otherwise may not be possible. As more surgeons are trained, more procedures will be performed using minimally-invasive techniques saving patients time, pain and expense. "

Saint Joseph's was one of the principal investigation sites in the country for the *daVinci* clinical trials and has been performing *daVinci*-assisted coronary bypass procedures since FDA-approval in 2004.

Editor's Note:

Celebrating its 125 anniversary this year, Saint Joseph's was founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1880 and is Atlanta's oldest hospital. Today, the 382-bed, acute-care hospital is recognized as one of the top specialty-referral hospitals in the Southeast.

As a leader in cardiac, neurologic, vascular, gastrointestinal, respiratory, orthopaedic and cancer care, among others, Saint Joseph's offers its patients the latest procedures and treatments by providing its medical staff of more than 750 physicians with research services and the most advanced technology available. In addition to serving the metro-Atlanta area, patients come from all over Georgia and nearby states because of Saint Joseph's specialized services, excellent reputation and unique patient experience.

As a result of its medical excellence and compassionate care, Saint Joseph's has received numerous awards. Saint Joseph's is the 12th largest cardiovascular program in the U.S. and recently was designated for the third time with the distinguished Magnet Recognition for Nursing Excellence from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Saint Joseph's also received a HealthGrades Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence ranking it the top five percent of hospitals in the country for overall clinical services. HealthGrades ranked Saint Joseph's "Best in Georgia" for cardiac services for the third time and "Best in Georgia" for stroke and gastrointestinal services. Saint Joseph's also was named to Solucient's list of 100 Top Hospitals® Cardiovascular care for the fifth time and is 100 TopHospitals® Orthopaedic. Saint Joseph's is the first Atlanta hospital named by J.D. Power and Associates as a Distinguished Hospital for Service Excellence, an outstanding patient experience and is one of only ten non-teaching hospitals in the country to be named both a Distinguished Hospital for Clinical Excellence and a Distinguished Hospital for Patient Safety by HealthGrades, Inc. in 2005.

At the core of Saint Joseph's long tradition of service is its Catholic mission dedicated to improving the health and well-being of the communities it serves. Saint Joseph's Health System, which includes the hospital, Mercy Care Services and Mercy Foundation, ensures Saint Joseph's ability to serve all those in need.

Saint Joseph's Mercy Care Services, one of the largest outreach efforts in Atlanta, provides health care and essential services to the homeless, new immigrants, and the uninsured at multiple sites throughout the metropolitan area and to elderly and disabled persons at its site in Rome, Ga.

Sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, Saint Joseph's is a member of Catholic Health East.

Contact information:
Deborah D. Coble
Director of Public Affairs
The West Clinic
901-683-0055 x 1312
dcoble@westclinic.com

West Clinic Surgeons Perform First Robotic Hysterectomy for Endometrial Cancer in Mid-South

da Vinci® Robotic Surgical System expands the surgeon's capabilities, providing a minimally invasive option for complex procedures

Memphis, TN – (February 28, 2006) The West Clinic Center for Gynecologic Oncology today announced that gynecologic oncologists, M. Patrick Lowe, MD and Todd D. Tillmanns, MD, recently performed the first robotic-assisted hysterectomy and pelvic lymphadenectomy (lymph node dissection) for the treatment of endometrial cancer in the Mid-South. Drs. Lowe and Tillmanns are the first and only surgeons in the Mid-South to be trained and certified to perform gynecologic laparoscopic surgery using Intuitive Surgical's *da Vinci*® Surgical System cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in April, 2005 for gynecologic applications. The surgery was performed at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Memphis, the only hospital in the Mid-South, encompassing West Tennessee, North Mississippi, and East Arkansas, offering robotic surgery.

The da Vinci Surgical System, a technologic breakthrough providing surgeons superior 3D visualization, improved dexterity, and increased precision for optimal performance of minimally invasive surgery, is one of the newest technologies available for the treatment of gynecologic cancer. Patients undergoing laparoscopic surgery with the da Vinci currently report less pain, blood loss, and scarring than those undergoing conventional open surgery. In addition, reduced instances of infection, shorter hospital stays, faster recovery times, and quicker return to normal activities are further reported. The West Clinic's first patient to undergo robotic surgery was discharged home the day after surgery.

Prior to the introduction of minimally invasive surgery (MIS) for certain gynecologic cancers approximately 10 years ago, all patients were treated surgically with conventional open

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laparatomy procedures. According to Dr. Lowe, "The use of the da Vinci robotic system takes standard laparoscopy to the next level in that the 3D visualization and magnification create a superior viewing field when compared to that of standard laparoscopy."

The da Vinci Surgical System is the world's only robotic surgical platform designed to enable physicians to perform complex procedures through a series of 1-2 cm incisions. The da Vinci System consists of an ergonomically

designed surgeon's console, which is linked to a patient-side surgical cart featuring four robotic arms that position and maneuver the System's proprietary EndoWrist® Instruments and 3D camera. A. The da Vinci System scales, filters and seamlessly translates the surgeon's hand movements into precise movements of the EndoWrist instruments.

The West Clinic Center for Gynecologic Oncology is the only center of its kind in the Mid-south providing comprehensive treatment for women with gynecologic cancer. As leaders in cutting-edge research and treatment for more than 25 years, West Clinic physicians currently participate in nationally sponsored clinical trials for ovarian, endometrial and cervical cancers. According to Steve Coplon, CEO, "Our research network is one of the most robust in the nation – offering many of the best treatments and procedures of tomorrow – today, here, in the Mid-South."

For additional information, contact The West Clinic, 901-683-0055, or visit www.westclinic.com.

Founded in 1979, The West Clinic is ***"****A World-Class Center of Excellence for Oncology, Hematology, Radiology, and other advanced medical care.****"*** Dedicated to delivering compassionate, state-of-the-art care to patients battling cancer, The West Clinic is recognized as one of the nation's leading community oncology centers, providing care through over 100,000 patient encounters annually across its six locations. For additional information, visit www.westclinic.com.

BAYLOR
All Saints Medical Centers

1400 Eighth Avenue
Fort Worth, Texas 76104
(817) 926-2544
www.BaylorHealth.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Mary Johnson
(817) 922-7088
maryjohn@baylorhealth.edu

or

Sunny Drenik
(817) 922-7100
sunnydr@baylorhealth.edu

BAYLOR ALL SAINTS MEDICAL CENTER AT FORT WORTH PERFORMS LAPAROSCOPIC VAGINAL HYSTERECTOMY WITH THE DA VINCI® S HD™ SYSTEM

(FORT WORTH, Texas, October 30, 2007) – Baylor All Saints Medical Center at Fort Worth performed a laparoscopic vaginal hysterectomy and pelvic lymphadenectomy (removal of lymph nodes) to treat uterine cancer using Intuitive Surgical's da Vinci® S HD™ System. The da Vinci S HD Surgical System integrates 3D HD endoscopy and advanced robotic technology to virtually extend the surgeon's eyes and hands into the surgical field.

Dr. Hancock and nurses, anesthesiologists and technicians on staff at Baylor All Saints Medical Center performed the laparoscopic vaginal hysterectomy on October 25.

"The da Vinci S model provides us with more than twice the viewing resolution and more viewing area. Clarity and detail of tissue planes and anatomy, which is critical when performing delicate dissection or reconstructive procedures, are improved," says Kenneth Hancock, M.D., a gynecologist/oncologist on the medical staff at Baylor All Saints. "We are very pleased to have the opportunity to be able to operate with the da Vinci S model at Baylor All Saints. We've only started to explore all the capabilities of this system. Typically, patients can recover from the surgery in days rather than weeks."

The not-for-profit Baylor All Saints Medical Centers serve more than 100,000 people annually through two hospitals, numerous primary care physician centers and practices, a rehabilitation and fitness center, and a variety of medical specialties. Programs of excellence in cardiology, transplantation, neurosciences, oncology and women's services form the heart of the hospitals' services. All Saints joined Baylor Health Care System in January 2002. All Saints Health Foundation, a separately incorporated not-for-profit organization, raises and manages charitable funds to support Baylor All Saints Medical Centers. **For fiscal year 2006, Baylor Health Care System reported $406 million in community benefit to the Texas Department of State Health Services.** For more information about Baylor, visit www.BaylorHealth.com.

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Physicians are members of the medical staff at one of Baylor Health Care System's subsidiary, community or affiliated medical centers and are neither employees nor agents of those medical centers, Baylor All Saints Medical Centers or Baylor Health Care System.

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Main Line Health
Lankenau Hospital
100 Lancaster Avenue
Wynnewood, PA 19096

Contact: Frieda Schmidt, 610-526-8763

Lankenau Hospital First in Pennsylvania to Perform Gynecologic Oncology Procedure using the daVinci Robot

(WYNNEWOOD, PA, November 21, 2005 –Lankenau Hospital reached a new milestone in robotic surgery by performing the first gynecologic oncology procedure in Pennsylvania using the daVinci robot, according to Intuitive Surgical, makers of the *daVinci® Surgical System.*

The minimally invasive procedure to remove the uterus, ovaries and lymph nodes of a 71 year- old women from West Chester was performed Monday, November 21, by gynecologic oncology surgeon Dr. David Holtz. "An important benefit of using the daVinci is being able to make smaller incisions, which has the potential for less pain, less blood loss, faster recovery and a shorter hospital stay," he explained.

The patient, who requested anonymity, was discharged the following day. She expects to recover in two to three weeks, compared to four to six weeks for traditional open surgery. "I feel really good and did not feel any pain," she said. "It's amazing to see only five small incisions and to be up walking the next day."

The daVinci system has up to four arms that are inserted into the patient through the incisions. One arm holds a miniature camera and the other arms hold instruments. Through these ports, the surgeon is able to navigate the robotic instrument arms and endoscopic arm during the procedure while sitting at a console several feet away from the operating table. A magnified 3-D system gives the surgeon an enhanced view of the surgical field.

"The arms have more flexibility than traditional laparoscopic instruments and are better able to reach hard to access areas. The improved vision and flexibility allows for increased precision," said Dr. Holtz.

In March 2005, Lankenau became the first suburban Philadelphia to offer the advanced robotic technology, which is capable of performing surgical procedures from start to finish. The daVinci is also used for a variety of cardiac and urologic surgeries, including mitral valve repair and prostatectomy. The daVinci Surgical System is the only operative surgical device of its kind on the market in the United States. Currently there are than 300 daVinci robotic systems in use in the country.

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Press Release

Carmel, IN—Clarian North Medical Center will debut the new 3D high definition daVinci S Surgical System with an open house on July 19, 2007 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Visitors can participate in hands-on activities and experience the dynamic scope of the robotic device by lacing a baby shoe and performing other activities requiring a high degree of precision using the physician training tools.

Clarian North, part of the Clarian Health system, is the only hospital in central Indiana to offer the new 3D HD da Vinci S Surgical System, which can provide surgeons with all the clinical and technical capabilities of traditional open surgery while enabling them to operate through tiny incisions. It combines superior 3D visualization along with greatly enhanced dexterity, precision and control. The added high definition capability provides viewing resolution that is two times greater than the resolution provided by the original da Vinci system.

Recent advancements in minimally invasive surgical technologies mean that today's patients have a broader range of alternatives to conventional open surgery than patients did just 10 years ago. The da Vinci Surgical System is providing patients with new, minimally invasive surgical procedures that offer significant advantages over traditional "open" surgeries. These robotic-assisted minimally invasive procedures – available to treat conditions as diverse as obesity, heart disease and prostate cancer – can benefit patients with less pain, less scarring and dramatically improved recovery times. For example, a woman undergoing a traditional open hysterectomy takes approximately four weeks to recover, whereas a hysterectomy performed using the da Vinci requires only two weeks of recovery time.

Patient results have improved through the simplification of many existing procedures, difficult operations are now more routine and new procedures are possible with the addition of the da Vinci. Both physicians and patients alike are pleased with the success of the device. "We've used the da Vinci system for many years at Clarian, but with the addition of the newest high definition model, we will be able to do even more. For many patients, recovery time can be reduced from weeks to just a few days", said Dr. John Scott, a urologist who has used the device for many years. "Our patients are able to get back to their normal routines very quickly—we are fortunate to be able to provide this for them", Scott continued.

In addition to a shorter recovery time and hospital stay, patients also experience a reduced trauma to the body, reduced blood loss and need for transfusions, less post-operative pain and discomfort, less risk of infection and less scarring and improved cosmetic results.

About Clarian North

Clarian North is a full-service hospital committed to providing exceptional care and service. With dedicated pavilions for women, children and specialty surgery, and an attached medical office building, Clarian North brings together physician offices, inpatient beds and operating rooms. All patient rooms are private, including neonatal and pediatric intensive care units, within the 700,000-square-foot, 170-patient bed facility. Clarian North Medical Center is part of Clarian Health, a system of hospitals and health centers throughout Indiana, which includes Methodist and Indiana University hospitals, Riley Hospital for Children, Clarian West Medical Center, and soon, Clarian Arnett.

Source: Clarian North

Changing women's future

BY DANIEL AXELROD
STAFF WRITER
07/14/2007

Mercy Hospital officials plan to open a health center for women 45 and older, which will make one of the toughest parts of Scranton gynecologist Michael Tedesco's job easier.

By August, Mercy officials will open the first portion of "The Women's Health Center for Excellence," which will be the only Northeastern Pennsylvania facility equipped to treat cancers of the female reproductive systems.

"It's a difficult decision, but on a weekly basis I refer patients to Lehigh Valley or Philadelphia or New York for a gynecological oncologist," Tedesco said. "When I mention we're going to send them somewhere else, that's never a pleasant experience. No one, including family members, wants to leave or to incur the travel costs, the hotel bills and the lost work."

In two weeks, Mercy's three OB-GYN doctors will begin making major women's gynecologic and urologic procedures less invasive with a new $1.6 million da Vinci System — a sophisticated robotic surgery platform.

The da Vinci System's cameras produce magnified, high-definition, three-dimensional pictures of a surgical site, allowing doctors to make smaller incisions.

But the new women's center's doctors won't be the only ones to use the equipment. Mercy plans to make the surgery system available to all the region's gynecologists.

"It's our mission to respond to the needs of the community as they arise in terms of what we offer," said Sister Susan Evelyn, Mercy's vice president of mission integration. "That's why it's very important that we collaborate with others in the area so we're not duplicating services."

Mercy officials said the new center will be fully operational by mid-2008, offering care for female incontinence and bladder issues, pelvic surgery and cancer care. It will include the hospital's existing OB-GYN unit of three doctors and 12 nurses.

The center, which will be folded into Mercy's existing hospital space, will represent a major new commitment to care for the state's fast-growing older female population, hospital officials added.

daxelrod@timesshamrock.com

Women already make 51.5 percent of Pennsylvania's nearly 12 million people, according to 2005 Census statistics.

By 2020, Pennsylvania's 60 and older population is expected to be 25 percent of the total population — more than 3 million people. The number of people age 85 or older is projected to increase 10 percent to more than 360,000 residents by 2020.

For now, hospital officials are still shaping the center. They're unsure about the program's annual operational costs, how much money they plan to invest in it and the number of doctors they expect to recruit.

But hospital officials are certain they'll need to hire several more specialized OB-GYN physicians and they've already begun looking.

"The Scranton-Wilkes-Barre area is right up there with its elderly population, but we have this out-migration of women seeking health care in different parts of the state," said John Howells, Mercy's chief information officer. "People have a perception you have to go to a big city to get good health care, but that's just not the case."

For Immediate Release
December 7, 2004
Contact: Deborah Pettibone (716) 845-8593

Prostate Cancer Robotic-Assisted Surgery Now Available at Roswell Park Cancer Institute

First in the Buffalo-Niagara Region

BUFFALO, NY – Roswell Park Cancer Institute (RPCI) is the first facility in the Buffalo-Niagara region to offer state-of-the-art robotic surgical technology to patients with prostate cancer. James Mohler, M.D., Chair of the Department of Urologic Oncology, RPCI, will supervise the use of the $1.35 million *da Vinci*® Surgical System, which incorporates the latest advances in robotics and computer technology and provides physicians with a sophisticated new surgical tool.

"We are excited to offer this technology at Roswell Park," said Dr. Mohler. "Robot-assisted surgery is a less invasive option for many prostate cancer patients."

The robotic system enhances the surgeons' skill with computer technology, enabling them to see vital anatomical structures more clearly and perform surgical procedures more precisely. The technology extends the surgeon's capabilities by providing a three-dimensional view of the operating field and improving access to the surgical site through small instrument "ports" that eliminate the need for large incisions. The system also provides full freedom of movement at its instrument tips, allowing precise operation in a closed chest, abdomen or pelvis.

"By enhancing surgical capability through improved technology, we are able to provide patients with better clinical outcomes so they can return to active, productive lives more quickly," said Dr. Mohler. "Patients who have undergone robotic surgery have consistently reported high satisfaction with the procedure."

For most patients, the benefits over traditional prostate cancer surgery include shorter hospital stays, less pain, less risk of infection, less scarring, and faster recovery of continence. Long-term recovery of continence and erectile function seem similar to traditional open surgery.

Approximately 16 percent of American men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer, including an estimated 1,100 Western New York men. Common treatments for prostate cancer include surgical removal of the prostate gland, "watchful waiting," hormone therapy and brachytherapy.

For more information about prostate cancer treatment, please call Roswell Park Cancer Institute at 1-877-ASK-RPCI (1-877-275-7724).

Roswell Park Cancer Institute, founded in 1898, is the nation's first cancer research, treatment and education center; it is the only National Cancer Institute-designated, comprehensive cancer center in upstate New York. RPCI is a member of the prestigious National Comprehensive Cancer Network, an alliance of the nation's leading cancer centers. For more information, visit www.roswellpark.org, call 1-877-ASK-RPCI or e-mail askrpci@roswellpark.org.

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News Release

PENN Medicine

University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine
University of Pennsylvania Health System

October 4, 2005

CONTACT: Olivia Fermano
(215) 349-5653
olivia.fermano@uphs.upenn.edu

Bridget Donaghue
(215) 662-9139
bridget.donaghue@uphs.upenn.edu

Penn Surgeons Use Completely Robotic Surgery to Successfully Treat Prostate Cancer
State-of-the-Art Technology Puts Patients on the Road to Recovery Sooner and with Less Pain, Scarring, and Negative Side-effects

PHILADELPHIA, PA – Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of death among American men. It is estimated that one in six males will develop the disease during his lifetime. However, promising new treatment options have been developed to help combat this threatening disease.

One of the most innovative of these treatments is robotic-assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy (removal of the prostate). The **University of Pennsylvania Health System** is currently one of only a handful of facilities across the country offering this minimally invasive, high-tech treatment. **David I. Lee, M.D.**, a national expert in robotic surgery, was recruited to Penn and named Chief of the Division of Urology at **Penn Presbyterian Medical Center**, where the robotic prostate program is based.

There are many factors that make robotics an exceptionally valuable tool in the operating room during prostate surgery, for both the patient and surgeon. "Perhaps two of the most-feared possible long-term effects of a radical prostatectomy are erectile dysfunction and urinary incontinence," says Dr. Lee. "My specially-trained team and I have discovered that by using the robotic technique there is greater nerve sparing, which provides patients with the best chance for maintaining potency and continence."
Robotic technology offers a number of advantages during surgery. For instance, the robotic "arms" filter even minute tremors of the human hand so to provide steadiness. The robot's camera also provides a three-dimensional, stereoscopic image of the body's interior, as opposed to a two-dimensional image on a flat screen. This improved perspective enables depth perception that sharpens the visualization of the prostate and the network of nerves and tissue surrounding it. Additionally, by scaling down the motion of the robotic instruments, the surgeon can perform extremely precise, intricate movements during the procedure. For example, if the surgeon's hand moves five centimeters, he/she can scale the robotic hand to move only one centimeter.

Robotic technology also offers a number of advantages after surgery. Because laparoscopic surgery is minimally invasive and no large incisions are involved, robotic-assisted surgery provides numerous benefits

for prostate cancer patients, including: less pain and scarring, diminished blood loss, a shorter hospital stay and reduced recovery period for a quicker return to daily activities.

The actual robot consists of a tower that manipulates instruments controlled from a console that is situated a few feet from the patient. At the console, the surgeon operates four robotic "arms" and "wrists" using hand and foot controls. One of the robotic arms holds a tiny video camera, one works as a retractor and the other two replicate the surgeon's exact hand movements. The camera and instruments are inserted through small keyhole incisions in the patient's abdomen. The surgeon then directs the robotic instruments to dissect the prostate gland and surrounding tissue.

Unlike standard laparoscopic approaches that require counter-intuitive movements by surgeons (whereby the surgeon must move his hand to the left in order to move the mechanical device to the right), the robotic technology affords surgeons the direct, "intuitive" control they exercise in traditional open surgical procedures, seamlessly translating their natural hand, wrist and finger movements at the console into corresponding micro-movements of laparoscopic surgical instruments inside the patient's body.

Penn has been using fully robotic surgery for cardiac patients for the past three years and is currently studying its use for head and neck cancer surgeries. "The robotic prostate program is a continuation of Penn's commitment to finding and applying the most precise, most beneficial surgical techniques to put patients on a quicker road to recovery with better outcomes," said Dr. Lee.

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PENN Medicine *is a $2.7 billion enterprise dedicated to the related missions of medical education, biomedical research, and high-quality patient care. PENN Medicine consists of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine (founded in 1765 as the nation's first medical school) and the University of Pennsylvania Health System.*

Penn's School of Medicine is ranked #2 in the nation for receipt of NIH research funds; and ranked #4 in the nation in U.S. News & World Report's most recent ranking of top research-oriented medical schools. Supporting 1,400 fulltime faculty and 700 students, the School of Medicine is recognized worldwide for its superior education and training of the next generation of physician-scientists and leaders of academic medicine.

The University of Pennsylvania Health System includes: its flagship hospital, the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, consistently rated one of the nation's "Honor Roll" hospitals by U.S. News & World Report; Pennsylvania Hospital, the nation's first hospital; Penn Presbyterian Medical Center; a faculty practice plan; a primary-care provider network; two multi-specialty satellite facilities; and home health care and hospice.

This release is available online at
http://www.uphs.upenn.edu/news/News_Releases/oct05/prsrobsurg.htm

New Prostate Cancer Surgery Offers Reduced Pain and Healing Time

Download this press release as an Adobe PDF document.

Little Company of Mary Hospital is one of few in Chicago area to offer da Vinci prostatectomy, an innovative treatment for prostate cancer.

(PRWEB) January 5, 2006 -- In 2005 alone, it is estimated that more than 232,000 men were diagnosed with prostate cancer, the most common form of cancer in the United States among males according to the American Cancer Society. Despite its prevalence, however, prostate cancer is highly treatable if it is found early and in the prostate. Surgical removal of the prostate, or prostatectomy, is one of the most effective treatments for prostate cancer, but the operation causes a great deal of anxiety for the patient because of the risks associated with prostate surgery and its effects on urinary control and sexual function. The investment in new technology and robotics at Little Company of Mary Hospital and Health Care Centers near Chicago (http://www.lcmh.org/prostate) provides their surgeons the ability to minimize the risks while providing the same benefit of traditional open surgery. The procedure provides a nearly pain-free and highly efficient surgical experience.

Little Company is one of the only community hospitals in the greater Chicago area to employ the da Vinci surgical system in prostate cancer surgery. A minimally invasive approach, da Vinci employs the use of state-of-the-art robotic technology allowing surgeons to perform complex surgeries through tiny openings. The surgeon has the benefit of greater visualization and control of the instruments. In addition, the nerves and valves are more easily preserved using this technique which offer the patient improved urinary control and preservation of sexual function without compromising cancer control. The patient also enjoys a shorter hospital stay, less blood loss, minimal scarring and an earlier return to full activities.

Dr. James Sylora is the urologist at Little Company who championed the da Vinci technology. By mid-September of this year, LCMH finally had its own da Vinci system in-house. "Ninety to 95 percent of our prostatectomy patients are candidates for da Vinci surgery," notes Dr. Sylora. "We're already having impressive results with the system." A leader in minimally invasive surgery techniques, Dr. Sylora is the only urologist in the Chicago area to offer and perform all minimally invasive prostate cancer treatments, including radioactive seed implantation, cryotherapy and now laparoscopic robotic da Vinci prostatectomy.

Ted Hollander of Chicago's Beverly neighborhood, a 64-year-old business owner and technology enthusiast, learned in July of this year that he had stage one prostate cancer. Dr. Sylora recommended a prostatectomy using the daVinci system, making Hollander the first patient at Little Company to be treated using the technology. "After learning the benefits of having the surgery with da Vinci versus the conventional method, there was no question in my mind that da Vinci was the way to go," says Hollander. "I figured that if the operation had to be done I wanted it performed with the best equipment available." Hollander felt very little pain following the procedure and was back at work within five days.

According to Dr. Sylora, the ideal candidate for a daVinci prostatectomy is under the age of 65 with a PSA less then 10 and organ confined prostate cancer. As with any cancer treatment, however, early detection is the key to a successful outcome.

"Having used all forms of prostate cancer treatments, I feel comfortable saying that the da Vinci prostatectomy is one of the very best," adds Dr. Sylora. "I have encountered many patients who believe that they must go to a university hospital to get such an innovative treatment option, but the truth is that Little Company has brought the most advanced prostate cancer treatment right to the community."

Little Company remains committed to providing doctors and patients the most modern and advanced diagnostic and treatment options for prostate cancer available.

"We already have one of the best CT scanners in the area and our radiation therapy services are the finest available," explains Dr. Sylora. "The da Vinci technology is yet another impressive addition to the service provided at the hospital."

To learn more about Little Company, its team of urologists, and da Vinci robotic surgery for prostate cancer, call the Little Company's health information center at 1.866.540.LCMH or visit http://www.lcmh.org/prostate .

CENTRAL DUPAGE HEALTH ANNOUNCES FIRST ROBOTICALLY ASSISTED MINIMALLY INVASIVE CARDIC SURGERY

Contact: Kim McKeown

Central Dupage Health

Phone:

[City, STATE]– [Date] Central Dupage Health, announced today that Dr. Marc Gerdisch successfully accomplished the hospital's first robotically-assisted minimally invasive cardiac revascularization with the da Vinci® Surgical System. The patient, <INSERT PATIENT PARTICULARS> enjoyed the benefits of a minimally invasive procedure made possible with the state-of-the-art robotic technology by Intuitive Surgical®(NASDAQ: ISRG) of Sunnyvale, California. The da Vinci enabled cardiac procedure promises to become a significant option for the treatment of patients with cardiovascular disease.

There are several treatment options available for treating patients with heart disease, of which one is surgery. One of the most widely used approach is the median sternotomy, which requires the surgeon to open the chest by making a twelve-inch incision in the breastbone exposing the heart and its vessels. This is considered one of the most invasive and traumatic aspects of open-chest surgery.

The da Vinci Surgical System offers patients another, newer minimally invasive approach. It incorporates a state-of-the-art surgical system that allows a surgeon to perform cardiac procedures in a manner never experienced before by operating through small incisions in the chest wall between the ribs. This new method involves many of the same steps as openheart surgery but typically eliminates the steps that result in a painful recovery.

For most patients, the da Vinci Surgical System offers numerous potential benefits over traditional open heart surgery including decreased post-operative pain, shorter hospital stay, less pain, less risk of infection, less blood loss and transfusions, less scarring and improved cosmesis, faster recovery, quicker return to normal activities.

The da Vinci Surgical System allows me to offer certain patients a minimally invasive cardiac revascularization procedure. As a result they benefit from reduced morbidity, shorter hospital stays, faster recovery and improvement of postoperative quality of life," states Dr. Gerdisch.

If you are interested in learning more about robotic-assisted surgery for cardiovascular diseases at [Medical Center], please contact [Medical Center or Physician] at [Number] or visit [Website]

About Intuive Surgical, Inc.
Intuitive Surgical, Inc. (Nasdaq: ISRG) is a global healthcare company with over 10 years of experience in developing, manufacturing and marketing the innovative, science-based technologies of robotic-assisted surgery. With the state-of-the-art da Vinci® Surgical System, Intuitive Surgical offers hospitals a break-through product to enhance surgical capability, improve clinical outcomes and drive operational efficiencies. The da Vinci System has a broad base of applications and FDA clearance in minimally invasive cardio-thoracic surgery, minimally invasive general surgery and in urology with da Vinci Prostatectomy for the minimally invasive treatment of prostate cancer. 240+ da Vinci Systems are installed in both academic and community hospitals worldwide. The da Vinci Surgical System is enabling forward thinking surgeons to redefine the standard of care and provide their patients with less pain, shorter hospital stays and a quicker return to normal activities. The company's website is www.intuitivesurgical.com.

About (insert hospital name and boilerplate)

Saint Joseph's acquires most advanced surgical system
First in the world to perform cardiac surgery with the new daVinci-S System
1/24/06

Saint Joseph's Hospital in Atlanta has acquired the Intuitive Surgical (Nasdaq:ISRG) daVinci-S Surgical System, the most advanced robotic surgical system available. It is Saint Joseph's third daVinci robot and the first daVinci-S in clinical service in the world. The daVinci-S, a minimally-invasive surgical system, provides surgeons with enhanced features including an interactive video display, lower profile arms and greater mobility.

"The daVinci and the daVinci-S robotic systems have given us the ability to see cardiac structures better and treat them more effectively while offering the patient the most minimally-invasive heart surgery possible," says Douglas A. Murphy, chief of cardiothoracic surgery at Saint Joseph's. "In our experience, this has meant a better operation for the patient with reduced complications, hospital stays and recovery time."

Dr. Murphy and his team of Saint Joseph's nurses, anesthesiologists and technicians were the first to perform cardiac surgery using the new daVinci-S including a mitral-valve repair, a coronary bypass and a thoracic mediastinal tumor excision.

"We are very pleased to have the opportunity to be the first team to operate with the new daVinci-S model. We've only started to explore all the capabilities of this advanced robotic surgical system," Murphy says. Saint Joseph's acquired its first daVinci robotic surgical system in 2002 and Dr. Murphy was the principal investigator in the clinical trials for coronary bypass and atrial septal defect repair. Dr. Murphy and his colleagues have performed more than three hundred totally-endoscopic heart procedures using the daVinci system. Endoscopic surgery allows the surgeon to repair the heart through small holes in the chest without any incisions involving the ribs or breast bone. Patients recover from the surgery in days rather than weeks.

At Saint Joseph's, the most common procedure using the daVinci robotic system has been mitral valve surgery. Dr. Murphy believes the daVinci system enhances the surgeon's ability to repair the valve rather than be forced to replace it with an artificial valve.

"Saint Joseph's has established itself as a leader in minimally-invasive cardiac surgery and we're extremely pleased that they've chosen to invest in this new product," says Lonnie Smith, president and CEO of Intuitive Surgical.

The daVinci System is operated by a surgeon sitting a few feet away from the patient at a console. Using a high-powered camera, the surgeon guides the robot's four arms - that hold surgical tools which are inserted into the patient through small, keyhole-sized incisions. The daVinci's highly-accurate instruments allow the surgeon to move his own hands - and the robots – to conduct precise movements with extraordinary control and precision. In addition, the da Vinci's video monitoring system provides a three-dimensional view of the surgery with magnification ten times that of the naked eye.

Click here to find out more information about the minimally-invasive robotic surgery program at Saint Joseph's.

MSU surgeons perform first robotic gastric bypass surgery in Michigan

Contact: Jeffrey Gauvin, Department of Surgery, (517) 267-2460, jeff.gauvin@ht.msu.edu; or Tom Oswald, University Relations, (517) 432-0920, oswald@msu.edu

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EAST LANSING, Mich. – MichiganStateUniversity surgeons, using the latest in robotic technology, have successfully performed the state of Michigan's first robotically assisted, laparoscopic gastric bypass surgical procedure.

Using the da Vinci Robotic Surgical System at Lansing's Sparrow Hospital, MSU surgeons Jeffrey Gauvin and Keith Apelgren recently performed the surgery on a 37-year-old female patient, who has recovered from the operation and is doing well.

Gastric bypass surgery is designed to help morbidly obese people lose weight. Essentially, it makes the stomach smaller and allows food to bypass part of the small intestine. The patient eats less food because he or she feels fuller faster.

The laparoscopic surgical technique is less invasive than traditional "open" surgery – the work is done through a series of small incisions that heal faster than traditional surgical incisions. Using the da Vinci robotic technology offers the surgeon better visibility – three-dimensional instead of two-dimensional – as well as more precision and the potential for better outcomes.

The robotic technology also allows surgeons to do more delicate work, work that can be challenging.

"There are other applications for this technology," said Gauvin, who is an assistant professor in MSU's Department of Surgery. "We can use it to sew very fine structures, such as bile ducts, together."

Robotic technology is now starting to be used for gastric bypass surgery, Gauvin said. Technically, it is a very difficult procedure to do using traditional laparoscopic technology.

"It takes a lot of time to get proficient at this operation using the traditional laparoscopic approach," he said. "And there are studies out now that indicate it is an easier operation to master with robotic technology."

For additional information on the MSU Department of Surgery, visit the Web at www.chmsurgery.msu.edu

CONTACT: **Jason R. Baran**
Public Relations Specialist
(732) 557-3909

Introducing the Next Frontier of Minimally Invasive Surgery

Monmouth Medical Center Becomes First and Only Hospital in Region to Implement Robotic Surgery

LONG BRANCH, NJ, **JULY 12, 2006** - Monmouth Medical Center, one of New Jersey's largest academic (university-level) medical centers, has become the first and only hospital in Monmouth and Ocean Counties to implement the next generation of minimally invasive surgery with the da Vinci® S Surgical System. The da Vinci S Surgical System combines computer and robotic technologies with the skills of a surgeon to create a new category of surgical treatment. making it possible to treat a broader range of conditions using a minimally invasive approach. By enhancing surgical capabilities, robotic surgery is helping to improve clinical outcomes and redefine standards of care.

The da Vinci S Surgical System provides surgeons with an alternative to both open surgery and traditional laparoscopy, allowing surgeons to perform even the most complex and delicate procedures through very small incisions with greater precision, superior visualization, enhanced dexterity, and ergonomic comfort for the optimal performance of minimally invasive surgery. The advanced feature set and extensive Endo Wrist® instrumentation of the System enables surgeons to overcome the significant technical drawbacks of traditional laparoscopy such as the fixed-wrist instruments that limit the surgeon's dexterity. As a result, some of the more technically demanding surgeries, such as a prostatectomy, where conventional open surgery is the standard approach, can now be performed with a minimally invasive approach.

Robotic surgery has become increasingly popular as surgeons seek more advanced ways to perform complex procedures with the least amount of risk and recovery time for patients. While the robots are not true autonomous robots that perform surgical tasks on their own, they are lending a mechanical helping hand to surgeons who use them for unprecedented control and precision of surgical instruments in the least invasive surgical procedures available.

The da Vinci Surgical System was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 2000, making it the first robotic system allowed inside American operating rooms. Only the da Vinci overcomes the limitations of both traditional surgery and conventional laparoscopy. The system allows the human surgeon to get closer to the surgical site than human hands and vision will allow through its 3-D image of the surgical field and increased dexterity of the EndoWrist instrumentation.

The EndoWrist has seven degrees of freedom that allows for increased control and dexterity to manipulate instruments and place sutures in more complex cases than is possible with traditional laparoscopy. As a result, the surgeon's hand movements are scaled, filtered and seamlessly translated into precise movements.

Frank J. Vozos, M.D., FACS, executive director of Monmouth Medical Center, said, "The da Vinci system is a remarkable improvement over conventional laparoscopy surgery. The EndoWrist allows the surgeon to perform more complex procedures such as prostatectomies and hysterectomies with lymph node dissection with a higher level of precision and accuracy than previously available. But it is still the surgeon's skill and expertise that the patient benefits from; the robot simply works to enhance the surgical procedure."

That's because the robot's "arms" eliminate even the smallest, barely noticeable human hand tremors, making movements remarkably steady. The surgeon can scale the robotic movements so that, for example, a five-inch human hand motion moves the robotic hand just one inch. This allows the surgeon to perform extremely precise and complex movements with greater ease.

According to Michael Goldfarb, M.D., chairman of surgery at Monmouth Medical Center, the da Vinci S Surgical System allows surgeons to go beyond the current modes of laparoscopic surgery where a surgeon must look up and away from the instruments to a 2-D monitor to see an image of the target anatomy. The surgeon must also rely on assistants to position the camera correctly. "However, in contrast, the da Vinci System's ergonomic design allows the surgeon to operate from a comfortable, seated position at the console, with eyes and hands positioned in line with the instruments. At the same time, the state-of the-art robotic and computer technologies scale, filter and seamlessly translate the surgeon's delicate hand manipulations into precise micro-movements of the instruments. Thus, to move the instruments or to reposition the camera, the surgeon simply moves his/her hands."

Ironically, the system is called "da Vinci" in part because Leonardo da Vinci invented the first robot. He also used unparalleled anatomical accuracy and three-dimensional details to bring his masterpieces to life. The da Vinci S Surgical System similarly provides physicians with such enhanced detail and precision that the System can simulate an open surgical environment, allowing operation through tiny incisions.

Robert Graebe, M.D., chairman of obstetrics and gynecology at Monmouth Medical Center, explained the benefits of using the robot. “Adoption of laparoscopic techniques, for the most part, has been limited to routine procedures. Robotics now enables surgeons to take a minimally invasive approach to surgery for more complex cases where open surgery was considered the standard protocol. As a result, there are typically shorter recovery times, less pain, less blood loss, fewer transfusions, fewer infections and reduced hospitalization costs.” Dr. Graebe added that the major benefits of using the robotic system for surgeons over traditional approaches are greater surgical precision, increased range of motion, improved dexterity, enhanced visualization and improved access. It cannot be programmed, nor can it make decisions on its own to move the surgical instruments. Robotic surgery may improve surgical outcomes and patient safety.

For example, the robotic system has already transformed the field of prostate surgery. Robotic surgery enables the surgeon to perform a wide array of urologic procedures, most specifically a prostatectomy, with a minimally invasive approach (through 1-2 cm incisions), when conventional open surgery is the standard. A surgeon can remove the walnut-size prostate and lymph nodes, and reattach the bladder to the urethra without once putting his/her hands inside the patient. Three robotic arms that are used in the incisions hold a camera and surgical instruments that are able to dissect and suture the tissue of the prostate. Unlike conventional “open” surgery, these instruments are not directly touched by the surgeon’s hands. He or she looks into a viewfinder to examine 3-D images being sent by the camera inside the patient. Joystick controls, located just under the screen, are used by the surgeon to manipulate the surgical instruments. The system is so sophisticated that the joysticks and the surgical instruments move in sync with the precise movements of the surgeon’s hands.

According to a recent study, robotic prostatectomy surgery patients had a 14 percent higher rate of cancer removal and, on average, regained urinary function in about a month and a half—four times as fast as open-surgery patients. Also, robotic patients experienced an increase in nerve sparing, which resulted in a lower incidence of sexual dysfunction – while half of the open-surgery patients experienced a higher rate of impotence two years later.

Currently there are more than 300 da Vinci Surgical Systems in use worldwide. Monmouth Medical Center’s affiliate hospital, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center is the northeast training center, which means surgeons throughout the Northeast come to Newark Beth to train and learn how to use the da Vinci robot. Monmouth Medical Center will be a regional robotic surgical center, enabling those surgeons from area hospitals who meet the criteria, specialize in minimally invasive surgery and are trained in robotics to use the system at Monmouth.

Vozos said patients should not assume just because the word “robot” is used to refer to the technology that surgeons aren’t actually performing the procedures. “This system is designed to seamlessly replicate the movement of the surgeon’s hands with the tips of micro-instruments. The system cannot make decisions, nor can it perform any type of movement or maneuver without the surgeon’s direct input. Instead, it helps surgeons enhance their ability to perform complex minimally invasive surgeries.”

Robotic surgical procedures are taking place at Monmouth Medical Center. For more information, call 1-888-SBHS-123.