

Intuitive and Newcastle Surgical Training Centre collaborate on UK's first robotic-assisted surgery training programme

OXFORD, UK, 06 June 2023 – Intuitive has today announced that surgical trainees from across Northeast England are gaining hands-on experience of robotic-assisted surgery (RAS) with da Vinci surgical systems thanks to a UK first programme designed to train the next generation of surgeons.

More than 30 surgical trainees in urology, colorectal, HPB and upper gastro-intestinal from NHS trusts across the Northeast are enrolled in the landmark programme designed to give access to technology training on a da Vinci surgical system at an earlier stage in a surgeon's career.

The da Vinci Academic Surgical Trainee Programme is run by the Newcastle Surgical Training Centre (NSTC) in partnership with Intuitive, the pioneer and a global leader of RAS and developer of the da Vinci surgical systems that are used across trusts in England.

Professor Alan Horgan, consultant colorectal surgeon at Newcastle Hospitals is the co-director of the Newcastle Surgical Training Centre and believes the training programme has huge benefits for trainees in the region. He said: "This means a lot to the Newcastle Surgical Training Centre and also to the Trust - to be the first of its kind in the UK and indeed in Europe to be running a surgical training programme which will allow all trainees to become proficient in robotic surgery by the time they complete surgical training.

"For our patients this is great news as there will be more and more surgeries being performed robotically in the future and it means their surgeons will be trained at an early stage to perform these procedures and they can take full advantage of the technology."

Existing practice within the NHS sees surgeons begin technology training to use a robotic-assisted surgical system once they have qualified as a consultant, limiting the access a trainee surgeon can have to this pioneering technology.

To date, more than 66,000 surgeons have been trained to use the da Vinci surgical system worldwide. Last year, Intuitive became the largest provider of robotic-assisted surgical technology training to receive accreditation by The Royal College of Surgeons of England.

To enable trainee surgeons to become proficient sooner in their careers, Intuitive has developed a structured curriculum for trainees to participate in robotic-assisted surgical procedures with da Vinci surgical systems, which incorporates key elements of its established Technology Training Pathway.

David Marante, Regional Director at Intuitive UK and Ireland, said: "We are excited to collaborate with healthcare institutions in the Northeast of England to run the UK's first programme to train the next generation of surgeons to use da Vinci systems.

"We look forward to working with this cohort of trainees over the next three years who represent the future of surgery here in the UK, as they go on to utilise our technology to support the NHS in improving outcomes and productivity and deliver better overall experience for patients while lowering the total cost of care."

Trainees will use Intuitive's digital learning platform and the My Intuitive App throughout the programme, enabling them to access their operational data during their training. These industry-leading tools allow them to analyse trends, see how their learning is progressing and share their data with mentors to review and learn from.

Once the trainees have successfully completed all four phases of the programme, they will be awarded with a training equivalent certificate, which shows technical competence on the da Vinci surgical system.

Abraham Joel, a Senior Registrar in Upper GI Surgery, is taking part in programme and said: "In my opinion, robotic-assisted surgery is the gold standard of care and robotic-assisted surgery represents the future for surgeons, so I am grateful to have been involved in this programme run by the NSTC and have access to train on such innovative technology. The ability of this training programme to record and track progress is so important too, both for our own learning and for the oversight of our mentors."

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Notes to editors

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About Intuitive

Intuitive (Nasdaq: ISRG), headquartered in Sunnyvale, California, with UK and Ireland headquarters in Oxford, UK, is a global leader in minimally invasive care and the pioneer of robotic-assisted surgery. Our ground-breaking technologies include the da Vinci surgical system. Digital intelligence allows us to unite our advanced systems, progressive learning, and value-enhancing services to help physicians and their teams optimize care delivery to support the best outcomes possible. At Intuitive, we envision a future of care that is less invasive and profoundly better, where diseases are identified early and treated quickly, so patients can get back to what matters most. For more information, please visit: <https://www.intuitive.com/en-gb>

About robotic-assisted surgery

Robotic-assisted surgery is a form of minimally-invasive surgery in which surgeons use robotic-assisted surgical systems to perform delicate and complex operations through a few small incisions, using instruments attached to the arms of the surgical system. Surgeons have total control of the system's movements.

By providing surgeons with enhanced visualisation, dexterity, precision and ergonomics, da Vinci robotic-assisted surgical systems help surgeons to perform minimally invasive procedures across a range of surgical specialties, including urology, gynaecology, colorectal, thoracic, and abdominal or general surgery.

This press release may contain estimates and forecasts from which actual results may differ.

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