

For Immediate Release
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Media Release

Christmas Comes Early at the Lois Hole Hospital for Women

First da Vinci Robot Dedicated to Women's Health in Canada Arrives

Edmonton, AB- It couldn't fit down the chimney, but the da Vinci Robot still made its way to Alberta Health Services' Lois Hole Hospital for Women as the ultimate Christmas gift for women in our community.

Thanks to the overwhelming support of donors from across Alberta, the Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation is thrilled to announce that the \$3.3 million dollar *We Deserve da Vinci* fundraising campaign is complete and the robot has arrived.

"On behalf of our Board of Directors, and all the staff and physicians at the Lois Hole Hospital for Women, we would like to thank each and every person who supported this campaign," says Sharlene Rutherford, Vice President of the Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation. "Funding the most innovative technology is critical in the delivery of patient care and the da Vinci Robot marks an exciting new era of women's health right here in Edmonton."

The da Vinci Robotic Surgical System is a minimally invasive device used to operate on cancers of the uterus, endometrium and cervix. The surgeon controls the da Vinci System, which translates his or her hand movements into smaller, more precise movements of tiny instruments inside the body. The robot allows for enhanced vision, precision, dexterity and control during these complex procedures.

“We are seeing breakthrough surgical capabilities with the robot and results for patients are truly remarkable,” says Dr. Valerie Capstick, Gynecologic Oncologist Surgeon at the Lois Hole Hospital for Women. “Women experience much less pain, very minimal scarring and a significantly reduced recovery time post surgery.”

This is the first robotic surgical system dedicated to women’s health in Canada, and will continue to establish the Lois Hole Hospital for Women as a national leader in women’s health.

“The ultimate goal is to build the best women’s hospital in Canada,” says Rutherford. “We are so grateful to all of the donors that made the dream of a da Vinci Robot for women’s health a reality. It really feels like a Christmas miracle!”

Over the next several weeks staff will be setting the robot up and running a number of tests to prepare for surgery. Surgeons at the Lois Hole Hospital for Women are anticipated to start using this new robot on patients in January 2015.

Media: Please keep an eye out for a media advisory in early 2015, inviting you inside the Lois Hole Hospital for Women for tours and demos of the new da Vinci Robot, as well as interviews with patients, cancer surgeons and staff.

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