

Robotically Assisted Surgery Preceptorship Programme 2010/11

Introduction

In 2003 there were 2 robots in the UK, now (April 2011) there are 27 robots in the UK and Ireland. Currently there is no hard evidence to support the widely held view that robotically assisted surgery dramatically improves patient outcomes. The main benefits for patients who undergo robotically assisted surgery are thought to be reduced blood loss, less need for critical care, improved erectile function and continence. Three randomised clinical trials are now underway to evaluate the robotically assisted surgery; CORAL for cystectomy, BOLERO for cystectomy and LOPERA for radical prostatectomy. However the key to successful surgery with a robot is effective training and mentoring of the surgical teams who use it. The Urology Foundation is committed to supporting the safe and effective introduction of robotically assisted surgery throughout the UK and Ireland and has several training and mentoring programmes in place. Professor Prokar Dasgupta is recognised as one of the pioneers in this field and has established Guy's Hospital, King's College London as a centre of excellence of robotically assisted surgery. He has been working with The Foundation over the last five years to implement a robotically assisted surgery mentorship programme.

Despite the increase in numbers of robots in the UK, many are still under utilised and further training to increase their use for the treatment of urological cancers and other urological conditions is required. As with all new technologies and techniques, without effective training, use of the robotically assisted surgery could lead to poorer rather than better patient outcomes.

Having identified the clear need for further support by The Foundation for effective training, a comprehensive training programme has been developed in collaboration with Professor Dasgupta and The Foundation's Scientific and Education Committee (SEC).

Applications

We invite applications from Consultant Urological Surgeons, Senior Trainees and their surgical teams to three uniquely designed TUF robotic preceptorships. The candidates must demonstrate that a robot is either already present in their institution or that there are advanced plans for installation of such technology. This needs to be supported by a CV, statement of intent and a supportive letter from the Chief Executive of the institution. The application form should be signed by the candidate, Lead Clinician/Medical Director and Chief Executive and returned to:

Christine Morris, The Urology Foundation, 40 Pentonville Road, London N19HF

Deadline for applications: 1 May, 2011

Scope of the proposal

The proposed robotically assisted surgery programme has three elements which are independent of each other but together provide a comprehensive training programme that is aimed at qualified consultants, surgical teams and trainees and covers both urological cancers as well as other non malignant urological conditions.

I. Consultant Training with a focus on urological cancers

Potential Candidates:

Consultant Urological Surgeons wishing to offer robotically assisted surgery as a routine treatment option to their patients. The consultant must prove that they have access to a robot. Up to four trainees can be accepted on this programme.

Format:

- One weeks' observation at Guy's under the supervision of Professor Dasgupta
- Four week clinical visit to University of Southern California (KECK) under the supervision of Dr Indy Gill. This will provide high volume observation, (all prostate and bladder operations are carried out by the robot assisted surgery) and also training in a wet laboratory (hands-on animal lab for robotically assisted surgery and robotic simulated training)
- Mentoring from the team at Guy's
- The clinical focus will mainly be robotically assisted surgery on cancers of the prostate, bladder and kidney.

Outcomes:

Each trainee will be required to write a mini review of a specific aspect of robotic urology for submission to the BJUI. This will be co-authored by Professor Dasgupta and Professor Gill.

Costs: £14,333 per candidate will be covered by TUF

2. Consultant and Surgical Team training for urological cancer and non malignant urological conditions

Potential Candidates:

Consultant Urological Surgeons and their surgical team e.g. 2 consultants and 2 nurses or 2 consultants, a trainee and a nurse. The lead consultant must prove that they have access to a robot. It is proposed that two surgical teams are accepted on this programme and that there is a good geographical spread from the applicants.

Format:

- One day's observation at Guy's under the supervision of Professor Dasgupta
- 2 days at IRCAD, Paris for laboratory training under the supervision of David Douglas, Intuitive Trainer. The program will also provide access to dry and virtual laboratories at the Sherman Education Centre.
- A week at Department Urologic Surgery, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville under the supervision of Professor Jay Smith
- Mentoring from the team at Guy's
- The clinical focus will mainly be a mixture of urological cancers and non malignant urological diseases. There are four robots at Vanderbilt and all are commissioned and used every day so there will be varied and high volume observation for the team.
- **Costs:** £17,733 per team of four will be covered by TUF

3. Robotically Assisted Surgery Trainee Fellowship

Potential Candidate:

A highly driven trainee who wishes to specialise in robotically assisted surgery. The successful candidate should be committed to practicing in the UK after the end of the fellowship. They will also need to be eligible for licensure to practice in Detroit.

Format:

It is proposed the successful candidate would work for one year at the Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit under the supervision of Professor Mani Menon and Dr Jim Peabody. The programme would provide a combination of laboratory training, observation and hands on surgery.

A report after completion of the Fellowship including a log book of procedures will need to be submitted to TUF

Costs: The fellowship is supported by a grant of £55,750 to cover one academic year