

## Griffin Hospital unveils robotic surgical system at reception in Shelton

By Patricia Villers

SHELTON - Robot-assisted surgery uses instruments that mimic hand movements and results in less blood loss, less tissue injury, and shorter hospital stays.

The da Vinci Xi Robotic Surgical System was unveiled last week by Griffin Hospital officials during an invitation-only reception at Enterprise Corporate Towers.

“The surgeon controls fine and sophisticated instruments,” said Dr. John Aversa, a colorectal surgeon who is chief of robotic surgery at Griffin Hospital in Derby. “The instruments follow hand movements,” he said, and allow surgeons to operate in a tight space.

The hospital has built a new, larger operating room with additional lighting for the robotic surgery, Griffin President and CEO Patrick Charmel said.



## Shelton robotics team tries their hands at robotic-assisted surgery

Photos by Fred Ortolì

SHELTON – Members of the Shelton High Gaelhawks Robotics Team got a feel for robot-assisted surgery recently.

Griffin Hospital invited the team to a special demonstration of its new da Vinci Xi Robotic Surgical System at Enterprise Corporate Towers.

Students were encouraged to operate the state-of-the-art machine by using the robot’s four “arms” to put small rubber hoops on cones about the size of a finger. They also attempted virtual surgeries on the da Vinci simulator.

The demonstration was held prior to a reception for Griffin’s new Robotic-Assisted Surgery Program.

“I think this is an absolute inspiration to the team,” said Shelton Superintendent of Schools Christopher Clouet. “They are very committed to robotics and technology, and this gives them an idea of what sorts of options might be available for them as they become adults.”



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The demonstration was held prior to a reception for Griffin’s new Robotic-Assisted Surgery Program for hospital supporters, government officials and representatives from local businesses and community groups.

Compared to traditional open surgery and conventional laparoscopy, robotic-assisted da Vinci surgery offers patients a number of benefits, including smaller incisions and less pain, shorter hospital stay and recovery time, less blood loss, and less tissue and nerve trauma.



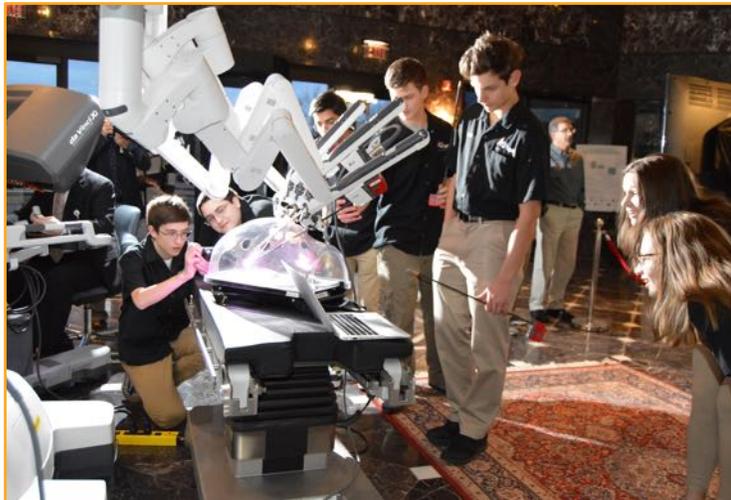
The event is part of Griffin’s multi-phase surgical expansion project, which will enhance its surgical capabilities and expand capacity to better serve the growing number of individuals across the region that are choosing Griffin Health for their care.

- Speakers at the event:**
- Griffin Hospital President Patrick Charmel
  - Dr. John Aversa, Jr., Griffin chief of Robotic Surgery
  - Dr. Richard Salzano, chief of Surgery at Griffin
  - Dr. Philip Minotti, surgeon, CT Orthopaedic Specialists



In 2017, Griffin built a new Ambulatory Surgery Suite to increase the number of pre-op/post-op rooms and provide easier access for patients and caregivers.

Griffin is now preparing to increase its number of operating rooms from six to seven and building a state-of-the-art technology operating room to accommodate robotic surgery cases.



For the Shelton Robotics team, the emergence of robotic-assisted surgery opens up new avenues for members to apply their love of machines.

“This is something very new,” said Sydney Youd, a senior and team co-captain. “I never imagined using a robot for surgery - it’s not the first thing I think of - but I can see its advantages, seeing how small the incisions that surgeons need to make, so this robot is definitely helpful.”

For more information about Griffin’s Robotic Surgery Program, visit [griffinhealth.org/robotic-surgery](http://griffinhealth.org/robotic-surgery).

*This is taken from a press release from Griffin Hospital*

## CHOICES available to area Medicare recipients offered at Center for Disability Rights, Agency on Aging

WEST HAVEN - The CHOICES program helps older adults and other people with Medicare coverage understand their Medicare coverage and healthcare options.

CHOICES offers a number of free programs, as well as community outreach, and information and referral services on a wide variety of topics.

**Carmen Correa-Rios** is a certified CHOICES counselor at the **Center For Disability Rights**. She can be reached at (203)-934-7077 Ext. 14. Please schedule an appointment with her if you need assistance.

You can also contact the Agency on Aging of South Central Connecticut which administers the CHOICES program in the south central region of Connecticut.

Appointments are highly recommended so that dedicated time can be set aside for you.



The CHOICES program is available for the Valley towns of Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour and Shelton along with 15 other towns in southern Connecticut.

