

CENTER *express*

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HOSPITAL • UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS MEDICAL CENTER

Robot technology catches on in OR

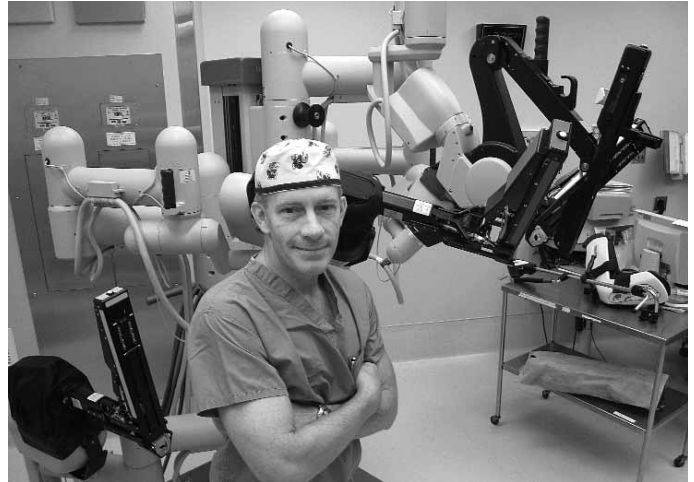
Surgeons at The University of Kansas Hospital are embracing one of the most advanced technologies around: a robot named da Vinci.

Use of the da Vinci Surgical System® has expanded steadily since the hospital purchased the technology in 2005. Surgeons specializing in urology, cardiology, gynecology and general surgery bring the robot to life almost daily to perform complex, minimally invasive procedures.

And later this month, **Emmanuel Daon, MD**, Cardiothoracic Surgery, is expected to enlist da Vinci to repair a mitral valve, a

major advancement. He'll be the only physician in the Kansas City area performing the procedure with robotic assistance.

The benefits are many. Da Vinci allows for greater surgical precision, increased range of motion, improved dexterity, enhanced 3D visualization and improved access. Seated at a console a few feet from the patient, the physician peers through a high-definition scope while using hand and foot controls to maneuver the robot's arms. One arm contains a high-resolution endoscopic camera; the other two hold



Pioneering work by **Brantley Thrasher, MD**, Urologic Surgery, has encouraged other hospital surgeons to use advanced robotics.

micro instruments.

The robot's rising popularity is due in part to the pioneering work by **Brantley Thrasher, MD**, Urologic

Surgery. He typically uses the da Vinci three or four times a week to perform prostatectomies and other procedures.

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Competition breeds healthy walking habits

When employees in the Center for Child Health and Development considered the array of walking fundraisers on the horizon, they came up with an idea.

Why not start a friendly competition to determine who's the top walker in their department? The competition, they figured, would

help the 25 CCHD employees prep for the events. Plus, it would help them experience the benefits of walking.



Did it ever. The CCHD's 12-week competition wrapped up in mid-May, but some of the employees still strap on their digital pedometers each morning, determined to track their daily steps and continue their newfound appreciation for walking.

Sabriya Waqiah, is one

In the 12-week competition, **Sabriya Waqiah** (center) was the top walker among employees in the Center for Child Health and Development, followed by **Susan Cannon** (left) and **Lisa Hull**.

of them. CCHD's division coordinator, she grabbed the top walker award with 687,403 steps during the competition, or about 350 miles. She now makes it a point to park away from a building as one way to increase her daily step counts. "The competition really made me realize how sedentary I was," she said.

The nature of the challenge pushed them.

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Robot, continued from page 1

Thrasher's success has encouraged other physicians to use the state-of-the-art technology and helped define patient criteria for the robot, said **Rebecca Gearhart, RN**, nurse manager in the CVOR. "Urology paved the way for the rest of us," she explained.

Compared with conventional laparoscopy – in which the surgeon operates while standing, using hand-held, long-shafted instruments – the da Vinci system is far more intuitive, said Thrasher. "Macro movements at the console equal micro movements of the robot," he said.

Of course, the ultimate test is achieving better patient outcomes. Thrasher and other surgeons like what they see: Patients typically experience less pain and blood loss, a shorter hospital stay and faster return to normal activities.

New director will expand KUMC research

The University of Kansas Medical Center has recruited **Buddhadeb Dawn, MD**, as director of the Division of Cardiovascular Diseases to further enhance its ability to offer world-class cardiovascular care in the region.

Dawn, who starts Sept. 1, also will serve as vice chair for research in the Department of Internal Medicine. In these roles he will help develop an infrastructure for cardiovascular research and assist in overall research efforts of the Department of Internal Medicine.

In addition, he will help develop a Cardiovascular Research Institute at KUMC. Dawn is widely recognized for



Buddhadeb Dawn, MD

his research using adult bone marrow and cardiac stem cells to generate new, healthy tissue to repair the damaged heart after a heart attack.

The institute will focus on advancing basic cardiovascular research and education to support the more advanced cardiovascular care offered by The University of Kansas Hospital.

"Dr. Dawn's expertise is a perfect fit for building a cardiovascular research program here at the medical center," said **Barbara Atkinson, MD**, KUMC executive vice chancellor. "And as an accomplished physician researcher, he understands what it takes to translate basic heart research into treatments for patients."

KUMC tuition to rise 6%

Students and residents at the University of Kansas Medical Center will see tuition rise 6 percent in the 2009-10

academic year. The increase, approved by the Kansas Board of Regents, follows a record state budget shortfall and reduced funding for higher education by legislators.

For students with Kansas residency, tuition will increase:

- \$186 per semester for undergrads taking 15 hours
- \$184.80 per semester for graduate students taking 12 hours
- \$711 semi-annually for medical students

Various campus and course fees also will rise. In addition to the higher tuition, KUMC identified cost savings and efficiencies at the administrative level. Those include a hiring delay, job cuts and reduced budgets across all departments.

The tuition increase at KUMC reflects hikes throughout the University of Kansas system.

KUMC student enrollment topped 3,100 in the 2008-2009 year.



Pull tab love

The May weigh-in is over, but **Torre Booth** (left) and **Grace Adejo, HCA**, both of Unit 15A/B, know The University of Kansas Hospital isn't finished collecting soda can pull tabs. The goal for 2010 is 100 pounds, 20 more than 2009's donations. Throughout the Kansas City area, schools, churches and businesses collected more than 12,000 pounds to benefit the Cherry Street Ronald McDonald House. Combined with sponsor contributions, the total pull-tab donation raised nearly \$20,000.

Please send calendar items to centerexpress@kumc.edu. Items must be received by noon on the Monday prior to publication.

eXtracurricular

4:30-5:30 p.m., Wyandotte Room.
Information: Dolly Wood, 8-6945
or dwood@kumc.edu.

Thursday, July 9

PREVENTIVE MEDICINE Seminar: "Translating Tobacco Control Policies and Communication Strategies: A View from Latin America and Beyond," Jim Thrasher, PhD, noon-1 p.m., B018 School of Nursing. Lunch provided for first 40 attendees.

"STRAIGHT FROM the Heart" Cardiac Recovery Support: Mondays and Thursdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m., White Heart Learning and Resource Center Conference Room, Center for Advanced Heart Care. Stop by to talk with a heart health expert. Information: 8-1227.

Friday, July 10

NEUROLOGY/NEUROSURGERY Grand Rounds: "Hot Topics and Trends: Stroke Intervention and Prevention," Marilyn Rymer, MD, 6:45-9 a.m., Lied Auditorium.

MOVIE NIGHT at the Landon Center on Aging: *Bolt*, 6-8 p.m., 200 Landon Center. Information: Hallie Kates-Calloway, 8-0606.

Tuesday, July 14

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY Support Group: Second Tuesdays,

Wednesday, July 15

LONDON CENTER on Aging Ethics and Medicine Brown Bag Seminar: "Genetic Testing for Diseases," noon-1 p.m., 200 Landon Center on Aging. Reservations: Matt Chandler, 8-3094 or mchandler@kumc.edu.

CENTRAL PLAINS Geriatric Education Center Seminar: "Time Management," Carol McAdoo, 3-6 p.m., 200 Landon Center on Aging. Register: coa.kumc.edu/cpgec/upcomingprograms.htm.

Friday, July 17

NEUROLOGY/NEUROSURGERY Grand Rounds: "Novel Therapies for Lysosomal Storage Disorders with Neurological Manifestations," Majed Dasouki, MD, 6:45-9 a.m., Lied Auditorium.

MOVIE NIGHT at the Landon Center on Aging: *Fly Me to the Moon*, 6-8 p.m., 200 Landon Center. Information: Hallie Kates-Calloway, 8-0606.

Walking, continued from page 1

Kirmeyer Fitness Center provided prizes for the top three walkers: a month's free membership for first and an hour session in the meditation room (with the massage chair!) for second and third.

Just as important was going toe to toe against colleagues in a friendly manner. Each week participants logged their steps on the "CCHD Steppers" bulletin board. With their progress on display for all to see, "You didn't want to give up," said Waqiah.

Vicki Miller, LSCSW, the

department's social worker, is pleased with the way her colleagues took to the competition. They walked so much, in fact, extra levels had to be added to the bulletin board.

Among their walks this year: autism in April, heart and cystic fibrosis in May, and cancer in August. Miller is particularly focused on the Autism Speaks walk Oct. 10. The CCHD is known statewide for its diagnostic assessment of children with autism, so she expects all CCHD employees not only to participate – but lead the way.

400 randomly selected for employee survey

The University of Kansas Hospital is participating in the "Best Places to Work in Healthcare" survey, created by *Modern Healthcare* and Best Companies Group. You may be among 400 randomly selected employees asked to take the survey.

The program is designed to recognize outstanding places of employment in health care – places like the hospital. Best Companies Group is the third-party agency administering the survey. This agency is solely responsible for tabulating the ratings. It's completely confidential and takes about 15 minutes.

If you are one of the 400, your supervisor will give you a survey in the next week. Your honest feedback is encouraged. It is extremely valuable to the process.

Mail your completed survey in the provided postage-paid envelope no later than Monday, July 27. Best Companies Group will not tabulate surveys postmarked after this date.

Nominate Operations Support staff for awards

The dedication of The University of Kansas Hospital Operations Support staff is vital. A new program – the 2009 Excellence Awards in Hospital Operations Support – provides the means to recognize the Five-Star Performance of outstanding individuals.

Awards will be given annually to staff members who demonstrate excellence in the following seven categories:

- **Service Award** – Consistently demonstrates service excellence and high customer satisfaction consistently.
- **People Award** – Models teamwork and courteous/purposeful communication. Consistently displays respect to colleagues and exhibits empathetic attitude toward patients and families.
- **Quality Award** – Serves as mentor and role model in the delivery of quality care. Expands their knowledge and shares this knowledge with others.
- **Cost Award** – Demonstrates cost consciousness.
- **Growth Award** – Demonstrates understanding of how their work supports the overall mission and goals of the hospital.
- **Exceeding Excellence Award** – Demonstrates excellence in all the above five categories.
- **Leadership Excellence Award** – Director/manager demonstrates excellence in the first five categories.

Eligible full- and part-time employees must work in one of eight Operations Support areas: Central Transportation and Dispatch, Dietetics and Nutrition, Energy Center, Environment of Care, Environmental Services, Human Resources, Maintenance or Westwood Satellite Support Services.

Nomination forms are due by 5 p.m. July 24. Submit printed forms to **Dwight Kasperbauer**, Operations vice president and HR chief executive, mailstop 3011. Information: **Jennifer Peavler**, 8-7817.

eXchange

Please send classified ads to centerexpress@kumc.edu or post online at 24/7. Items must be 25 words or less and received by noon Monday. Ads run on a space-available basis.

Vehicles

2008 HONDA CIVIC EX-L, 16K, blue with gray leather interior, excellent condition, sunroof, tinted windows, fog lights, \$17,500. 913-481-9502.

2006 FORD F-350, 46K, 6.0L, diesel power-stroke turbo, crew cab, short bed, automatic, 4x4, 6" lift kit, leather interior, soft tonneau cover. 816-898-7847.

2004 PONTIAC GRAND AM GT Coupe. 913-722-2274.

2002 DODGE Grand Caravan Sport, 107K, 3.3L, V6, remote start, alarm, new tires/wheel alignment, well maintained, oil changes 2K-3K miles, must sell, \$6,500. 913-439-7399.

2000 SATURN, 160K, black, 2 owners, great mpg, \$2,200 OBO. 913-708-3186.

For Sale

SOFA AND CHAIR, \$150; Edge 470 exercise bike, new, \$130; pressure canner, \$20; garage door opener, \$25; entertainment center, \$60. 816-916-4814.

COACH PURSES, purchased from Coach Store last year, \$100. 913-219-6073.

GUCCI TOTE, white AAA, roomy, stylish, \$65. 816-416-8263.

NORDICTRACK Sequoia model ski machine, good condition, folds for storage, \$175. 913-209-2106.

OUTSIDE KENNEL, 4' tall, 6'x6' square chain-link with door, excellent condition, photos, \$100 OBO, you pick up. 816-914-0882.

10 CHICK FLICKS on DVD, titles include *My Best Friend's Wedding*, *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days*, *Legally Blonde*, *Serendipity* and more, \$10. 913-209-3241.

GRACO Infant Safeseat, like new with 2 bases, infant headrest, cold weather boot, manual, purchased in April, no accidents, attachable toys, \$85. 913-908-5484.

GULBRANSEN ELECTRIC ORGAN, good condition with oak cabinet, suitable for home or small church, you pick up from Independence, \$75 negotiable. 816-254-4060.

PRECIOUS MOMENTS collection, \$150; elliptical machine, electric, great shape, \$100; stationary bike, electric, \$100. 913-897-5654.

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS: full-size mattress/box springs, \$40; desk, \$15; microwave, \$5; bathroom cabinet, \$20; outdoor gas grill, \$25; prices negotiable, photos. 913-707-7076.

3 STANDARD TEXTILE long white coats, new, large, \$10 each or will trade all 3 for a white coat size 40 long. 816-682-4647.

BRITAX COMPANION infant seat, purple, used 5 months, perfect condition, includes base (never used); Britax Vigour stroller (only carseat fits), photos. 305-401-8892.

BRIDAL TIARA with pearls, worn once, purchased at David's Bridal, stored in case, photos, \$75. 816-812-2035.

STEP 2 KID'S KITCHEN, \$45; Dora the Explorer play kitchen, \$35. 816-452-5903.

Garage Sale

LENEXA SALE: 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, July 11, Sunday, July 12, 7770 Pflumm Ct., women's/girl's clothing, housewares, free items and more. 319-331-6393.

Housing

• FOR SALE

SHAWNEE HOME, 5 BR, 4½ BA, 3-car garage, finished basement, new roof, tiled floors, sprinkler, 15 minutes to KUMC, \$329,900. 913-669-4176.

PRAIRIE VILLAGE Cape Cod, 4 BR, 2 BA, lots of storage, updated interior, hardwoods, sunroom, walk-in closets, 7240 Roe, \$189,900, lease option. 913-907-4120.

• FOR RENT

WALDO AREA home, 3 BR, 1½ BA, dining room, kitchen with appliances, \$700/month. 816-333-1959.

Pets

HEALTHY KITTY, 9 weeks old, needs good, responsible home. 816-690-6378.

SWEET OREO, natural-born snuggler kitty, needs loving home without other pets, declawed, spayed female, 7 years, current vaccinations/teeth-cleaning, devoted companion. 913-558-1973.

MAMA CAT and 4 kittens, litter-box trained, very playful and sweet. 816-588-7229.

Wanted

ROOMMATE and room to rent in Overland Park area, prefer covered parking or garage, current lease ends in August. 816-678-6649.

FUTON FRAME, full size in good condition. 913-599-3669.

NORDICTRACK C3 stationary bike, will pick up. 913-334-9491.

BLACK WROUGHT iron patio loveseat glider and chaise lounge. 816-305-1812.

eXtra: Find these and other classifieds on the hospital intranet, 24/7, <http://intranet.kumc.com>.

CENTER eXpress

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eXceptional

Julie Amor has been named one of *Ingram's* "40 under 40," which honors Kansas City-area professionals for their contributions in their respective fields and the community.

"If you've heard the growing national buzz about The University

of Kansas Hospital, it's probably in part because of the efforts of Julie Amor, the hospital's marketing director," the magazine observed.

Amor, who's been with the hospital more than 10 years, said her marketing focus includes a push to empower patients, particularly women, to create healthy lifestyles for themselves and their children.



Julie Amor