

# Somebody call me a DOCTOR



»» "You better call me a doctor ... feelin' no pain" — Van Halen

John Fremstad

We scrubbed in ... we were prepared ... the patient was ready ...

Thankfully for the patient, I was just observing while Dr. Patel, with the help of the da Vinci® Robot, completed another successful operation. Although this may seem like a scene from a Sci-Fi movie, it is actually a growing reality here in Central Florida and across the nation.

A new era is dawning in surgical procedures thanks to the cutting-edge technology of the da Vinci® Robot and the da Vinci® surgery system. This innovative robotics tool provides doctors with a minimally invasive application in which to perform complex operations.

Providing benefits to both patient and surgeon, the da Vinci® Robot combines remotely operated robotic arms equipped with minute surgical instruments and

3D real-time imaging to allow for an increased level of precision, versatility, and control in intricate procedures. Advantageous to the patient, this advanced medical practice affords benefits of reduced pain, diminished scarring and complications, less blood loss, lower risk of infection and a faster recovery.

Not only is this happening in operating rooms in Central Florida, but from a business perspective it's headquartered here. The Global Robotics Institute (GBI) at Florida Hospital is a world-class, multi-specialty surgical program comprised of leading urologic, gynecologic, colorectal, and cardiac physicians dedicated to providing superior patient care through the use of robot-assisted laparoscopic technology. GBI is a destination program for both patients and physicians: Patients

come from all over the world to receive the latest surgical treatment options, and each year nearly 7,000 international and domestic doctors are trained in the most innovative procedures and technologies at Florida Hospital's Nicholson Center for Surgical Advancement.

Now, along with major simulation and laser companies, leading research institutions and hospital systems call Metro Orlando "home" for business. It is clear that the life science and biotechnology sector has gained tremendous momentum here. As robotics, simulation and optics push the "new knowledge" phase, and rapid discoveries lead to commercialization, the industry is likely to accelerate rapidly and Metro Orlando will benefit. We will experience significant advantages in the coming decade. There is nowhere else on the planet that can rival our strength in entertainment, simulation, film production, interactive media ... and the life sciences.

This issue of *Texture* looks at another powerhouse tech industry in our region: optics and photonics. This community is a world leader in using light to speed communications, detect disease, and multiple other uses. We also take a look at numerous innovative people and their companies.

Examine our region's texture, engage in this conversation and enjoy the experience.

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