



**CUH Charity**

Cork University Hospital

*Saving and Changing Lives*

# ROBOTICS €3.2M FUNDING APPEAL CORK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

Cork University Hospital has an urgent need for support to bring robotic surgery to the hospital.

Robotic surgery, or robot-assisted surgery, allows doctors to perform many types of complex procedures with more precision, flexibility and control than is possible with conventional techniques. Robotic surgery is usually associated with minimally invasive surgery - procedures performed through tiny incisions. It is also sometimes used in certain traditional open surgical procedures.

## THE BENEFITS OF ROBOTIC SURGERY OVER CONVENTIONAL SURGERY

- Shorter patient stay - 3 versus 6 days
- Decrease in age of patients being referred for surgery
- Smaller, less painful incisions - big benefit to patient
- Less blood loss
- Optimises resources - less strain on intensive care capacity
- Quicker return to work
- Cost effectiveness
- A huge additional benefit sits in the ability to use the dual console for training purposes.

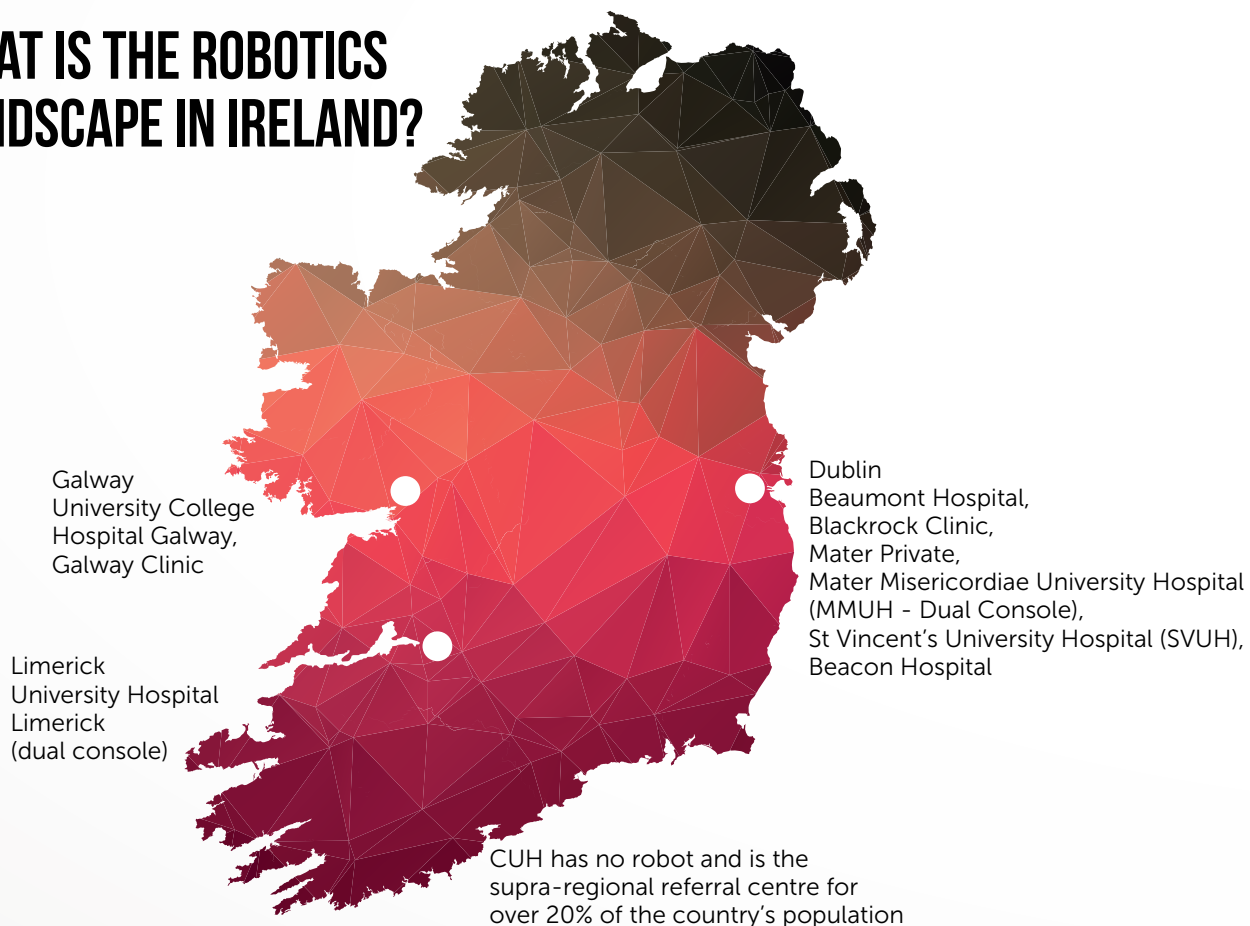


There is an urgent and compelling need to source a robot for Cork University Hospital. The hospital has appointed consultants in Urology, Colorectal and Cardiothoracic who have all worked at major international robotic centres to gain the expertise to deliver this service in CUH. They are currently unable to use this expertise. Cork University Hospital is a national training centre for many surgical sub specialities. Dublin hospitals currently have, in total, 6 Da Vinci robots, for trainees to access. Cork trainees have access to none.

Recruiting and retaining the best trainees in Cork will be impossible as we fall far short of delivering standard of care in training.

Mr Shane Killeen is a UCC medical graduate who trained in robotic colorectal surgery in Cleveland Clinic, OH, USA. Mr Killeen was a consultant colorectal surgeon who established and led the colorectal robotic programme in Hull and East Yorkshire NHS Trust. He returned to CUH in 2018 with a view to establishing a robotic centre in Cork however he has no access to a robot.

## WHAT IS THE ROBOTICS LANDSCAPE IN IRELAND?



### A COMMITTEE HAS BEEN FORMED TO URGENTLY SEEK FUNDING FOR THIS CRITICAL PROJECT

#### Committee Members:

- Dr. Will Fennell - Retired Consultant Cardiologist CUH
- Prof. Michael Molloy - Chair of the Cork University Hospital Charity, Retired Consultant Rheumatologist, CUH
- Dr. Tara Ní Dhonnchú - Consultant Cardiac Surgeon CUH
- Prof. Peter Kearney - Consultant Cardiologist CUH
- Mr. Anthony O'Leary - Managing Director, O'Leary Insurances
- Mr. Michael Nason - CEO of the Cork University Hospital Charity



# THE DA VINCI XI ROBOTIC SYSTEM

The Da Vinci Xi robotic system consists of 4 interactive arms which operate on the patient. These arms are controlled by the surgeon who typically sits at a console in the corner of the room. The Da Vinci robot always requires a human operator

and the robot arms sense the surgeons hand movements and translate them into scaled down micro-movements to manipulate small surgical instruments. A second optional training console allows tandem operating and training.

## THE BENEFITS OF A ROBOT OVER CONVENTIONAL SURGERY:

### UROLOGY (PROSTATE CANCER):

- Robotic prostatectomy is now widely used because of its high degree of surgical accuracy, and because recovery is much faster than it is for open surgery.
- Robotic prostatectomy is the standard of care in US, UK and Ireland.
- It has similar functional and oncological outcomes compared to open surgery but has benefits in relation to less pain, shorter hospital stay, faster return to work, less chance of bladder neck contracture and DVT.
- Currently less than 50% of cases are performed robotically in the South/South West Hospital Group.
- CUH currently borrows a robot once a week to facilitate some robotic prostatectomies. Moving a robot from hospital to hospital is not ideal and has led to mechanical issues with the robot.
- When radical prostatectomy is indicated it is anticipated all patients will have the option of undergoing robotic assisted surgery.

### COLORECTAL (BOWEL CANCER):

CUH is now the only major colorectal centre without a robot.

- Less bladder and sexual dysfunction
- Reduced time in hospital for patients
- Less pain

### CARDIAC (HEART VALVE SURGERY):

- Avoids breaking the breastbone
- Less blood transfusion requirements.

### THORACIC (LUNG CANCER) SURGERY:

- Avoids large and painful incision between rib spaces.
- All patients currently undergoing conventional open lung cancer surgery require an Intensive care unit bed. The leading cause of cancellations in CUH for lung cancer surgery is lack of access to an ITU bed. Robotic lung cancer surgeries typically require only a standard ward bed which will alleviate the pressure on an, already strained, ITU.



# ABOUT CORK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

- Serves a region of 1.5 million people
- Has 500,000 patients attending every year, over 1 million visitors and a staff of 4,500
- Has 42 medical specialities in one campus
- Is a Centre of Excellence for Cancer Services, Paediatrics, Neurology and Neurosurgery, Cardiac and Renal Services, Trauma, Cystic Fibrosis, Respiratory, among other areas of medicine
- Is the location of the Regional Cancer Centre – the designated cancer centre for the region and one of the largest in the country
- Is the largest teaching hospital in Ireland and primary teaching hospital for the College of Medicine and Health (CoMH) in University College Cork
- Is the only Level 1 Trauma Hospital in Ireland
- Has more clinical trials taking place than in any other hospital in Ireland

## About CUH Charity

Cork University Hospital Charity has a vision to support the delivery of the strategic plans of Cork University Hospital (CUH) and Cork University Maternity Hospital (CUMH) over the next 5 years. These are ambitious plans which will see transformational change occur leading to significant and tangible improvements in the overall services made available to the people of Munster.

For further details on how you can support the Robotics Funding Appeal please contact:  
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