



UI Health Hospital & Clinics

# ROUNDUP

MARCH 2018

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

- **NEW:** Flex Robotic Surgical System
- Blood Clot Awareness Month
- Survey on Patient Safety
- Doctors' Day is March 30

## New Flexible Robotic System Offers More Treatments, Improved Outcomes for Head & Neck and Colorectal Surgeries

A new robotic surgical system is allowing UI Health surgeons to perform minimally invasive procedures in parts of the body that previously were difficult or impossible to reach.

Traditional robotic systems feature a large console from which the surgeon operates — several feet away from the patient. The surgical instrumentation is straight, and only the ends are flexible. But the Medrobotics Flex Robotic System combines an endoscope and laparoscope to create **improved access, angle of approach, and vision for transoral and transanal procedures.**

“The Flex Robotic System was developed to fill a need — specifically, single-orifice surgery,” said Dr. Barry L. Wenig, director of Head & Neck Surgery at UI Health. “This was not meant to replace the existing robotic systems but rather allow specific procedures to be carried out in head and neck surgery that otherwise could not be accomplished due to the lack of versatility with previous systems.”

The flexible surgical robotic can navigate a nearly 180-degree path around anatomy to reach a surgical target, with articulating instruments that extend to perform procedures. Surgeons can **access anatomy that previously was difficult to reach** and provide more **minimally invasive surgical treatments** — so more patients may be able to be treated with these techniques.

UI Health is the only academic medical center in Chicago to offer the Flex Robotic System for minimally invasive head and neck and colorectal surgical procedures.

“Prior to this, robot exposure was limited, and surgical options were restricted to three or four procedures,” said Wenig, who in August was named Interim Head of the Department of Otolaryngology. “This has really opened up the field. It is also a portable unit that can be easily moved from room to room and does not require a fixed location.”

The first procedure Wenig performed was a laryngopharyngectomy — a cancer-treatment surgery where the larynx, or voice box, and pharynx are removed. Using the Flex system allowed him to identify where the internal cuts needed to be to obtain negative margins of resection. With this **precision and high-definition visualization,** the reconstructive surgeon — who was present in the operating room — knew the exact dimensions for his procedure and could begin planning the next surgery.

Procedures like this that used to take several hours now can be completed in minutes. Further, tracheotomy can be avoided; length of stay in the hospital is reduced; and patients are able to recover much faster with no visible scarring or disfigurement.

UI Health Colon & Rectal Surgeons recently were trained on the Flex system and soon will begin using it for colorectal surgeries.

“The unique nature of the technology will offer us a much wider range of surgical options that will hopefully attract a larger referral audience,” Wenig says.



Stop The Clot,  
**Spread The Word™**

## MARCH IS BLOOD CLOT AWARENESS MONTH

**3 Ms** for blood clot reduction:

- 1 Machine Compression**
- 2 Medication**
- 3 Movement**

To learn more about the **3M** initiative, visit the intranet.

# DID YOU KNOW?

## NEWS FROM AROUND UI HEALTH



Blue  
Distinction®  
Center+  
Bariatric

### Bariatric Surgery Program Recognized as a Blue Distinction Center+

The UI Health Bariatric Surgery Program has again received a highly coveted service designation that recognizes its **commitment to nationally established cost-of-care criteria**.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois recognized the program as a Blue Distinction Center+ for Bariatric Surgery. UI Health received the designation both for Gastric Stapling and Gastric Banding. The program was first named a Blue Distinction Center+ in 2016.

Blue Distinction Centers are part of a national program that recognizes facilities that demonstrate **expertise in safely and effectively delivering quality specialty care**. The BDC+ designation also emphasizes a center's focus on cost-of-care measures.

"We are thrilled to receive the BDC+ for Bariatric Surgery designations from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois," said Dr. Chandra Hassan, director of Bariatric Surgery at UI Health. "This designation establishes UI Health as a leader in bariatric services while informing potential bariatric patients that UI Health provides the best possible care in a consistent, equitable manner."

To learn more, visit [Bariatric.UIHealth.Care](https://Bariatric.UIHealth.Care).



### OPIO Offers Connect & Co-design Course

The Organizational Process Improvement Office (OPIO) will be offering a three-day course, Connect & Co-design: Tools for Improving Your Day-to-Day Clinical Practice and Patients' Experience. Connect & Co-design is an approach to designing healthcare services that are rooted in the needs and values of the people who use them and the staff and providers who deliver them. This course uses a blend of lectures, team exercises, and simulations to provide participants with the knowledge, skills, and tools needed to successfully implement change initiatives and improvement projects. All staff are welcome to participate.

Upcoming courses are scheduled from 7:45 am to 3:30 pm on the following days:

**April 2-4 | May 7-9 | June 4-6**

Enrollment is available through the LMS. Physicians and nurses will be awarded continuing education credit commensurate with their participation in the course. For questions, please contact the OPIO team at [opi@uic.edu](mailto:opi@uic.edu).

### Survey on Patient Safety Launched March 1!

The Survey on Patient Safety opened on **March 1**. It will be available for two weeks.

Safety culture surveys are useful for measuring how organizations are doing in providing safe patient care and safe work environments. This survey will help us measure the improvements we've made since our last survey in September 2016. It will also help us understand where we have additional opportunities for improvement.

To take the survey, visit <https://www.patientsafetygroup.org/survey/uic/>.





## Congratulations to our Pre-Operative Team!

A recent audit of patient compliance with the UI Health revised Pre-Anesthesia Intake Instructions (PII) showed a **98% compliance rate!**

Over 70% of patients are drinking Gatorade that is now supplied in the pre-op instruction folder, and the remaining patients are drinking a combination of Gatorade, alternative clear beverages, or water. This is an amazing level of compliance for a program that is barely a year old. We continue to focus our efforts on those who are not drinking clear liquids two hours prior to operation, to continually increase our compliance rate.

The current success demonstrates what can be achieved when all staff work collaboratively to change culture and improve patient care. Importantly, this level of success would not be possible without the support of Department leaders, Nursing leadership, Hospital Administration, staff, residents, nursing, faculty, and others.

To learn more about the pre-operative protocols and initiatives, contact Dr. Randall Dull at [rdull@uic.edu](mailto:rdull@uic.edu).

## UPCOMING EVENTS/DEADLINES

### Doctors' Day is March 30!

In celebration of our physicians at UI Health, the Employee Experience team and Hospital Leadership is hosting a breakfast and luncheon reception on Friday, March 30.

We invite all Attendings, Fellows, and Residents to stop by during the hours listed below:

#### Breakfast Details:

Friday, March 30  
6 - 8:30 am  
Conference Room 1135

#### Lunch Details:

Friday, March 30  
11 am to 2 pm  
Conference Room 1135

### Nurse License Renewal Deadline Approaching

RN licenses expire **May 31, 2018**.

If you **do not renew your license**, you will **not be able to work**. Please note, there will be no postcard renewal notices sent via U.S. mail.

For information on how to renew, please visit [www.idfpr.com](http://www.idfpr.com) or visit the intranet.