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## Liverpool Hospital leads the way in robotic surgery

In an Australian first, Liverpool Hospital takes an extra step towards robotic surgery with a Robot Simulation Training Mimic System and a Dual Console da Vinci Xi Clinical Robot, allowing doctors to train in one of Sydney's fastest growing areas.

Up until now, Liverpool Hospital Director of Surgery, Professor Lesley Bokey said Australian doctors wanting to learn robotic surgery have had to travel to the United States of America, South Korea or China.

"Our hope is that our unique Academic Robotic Surgical Unit Training Program will not only encourage top surgeons from around Australia and the world to train here but also entice them to work here," Prof Bokey said.

"Liverpool Hospital is a teaching Hospital aligned with University of NSW and the University of Western Sydney, and also welcome students from over 20 universities and colleges.

"These partnerships mean that through the South Western Sydney Clinical School, we can offer trainees and surgeons learning robotic surgery to practice their skills prior to undertaking components of an actual operation," he said.

Liverpool Hospital Urologist, Dr Pascal Mancuso who has performed over 200 robotic Urological cancer operations, recently performed the second robotic surgery at Liverpool Hospital using the \$4 million da Vinci Xi surgical system to remove a patient's prostate.

Dr Mancuso said the robot's arms can be moved in such a way that mimics your hand and gives far greater flexibility, precision and access while performing surgery, leading to quicker recovery time for the patient.

"Patients who choose to undergo robotic surgery over traditional laparoscopic are discharged from hospital within a couple of days and can return to their normal level of activity within a few weeks," Dr Mancuso said.

"The console enables me to view a 3D image which means I have better vision and can navigate my hand, wrist and fingers into precise, real time movements of the surgical instruments inside the patient," he said.

Liverpool Hospital General Manager Robynne Cooke said the Hospital is uniquely positioned to provide training and offer patients in the public health system access to the latest technology.

"South Western Sydney Prostate Cancer Clinic is the first of its kind, there is no other clinic in the state that offers patients access to both a radiation oncologist and urological surgeon in a single location," Ms Cooke said.

"Robotic surgery has been offered by private hospitals for quite some time at a considerable out of pocket expense but I'm proud that patients in South Western Sydney can now be treated as public patients at Liverpool Hospital using the very latest in robotic technology," she said.