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Robotic Surgery Vattikuti Fellowship for 7 Indian surgeons

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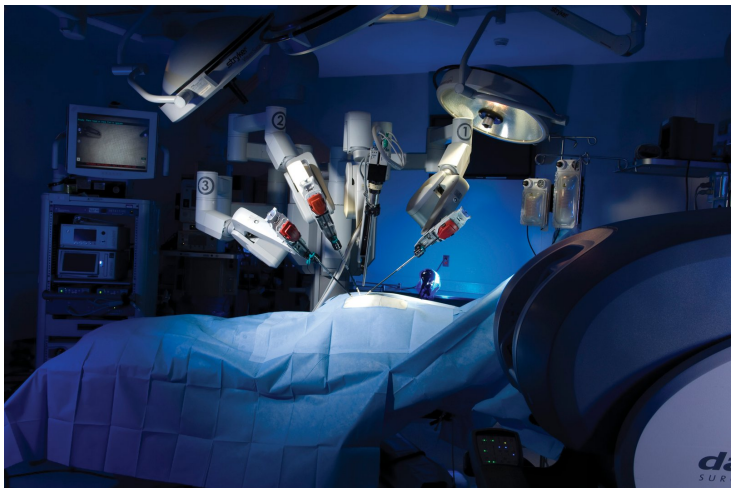

Detroit headquartered Vattikuti Foundation, a non-profit focused on promoting Robotic Surgery in the India, Europe and United States, has awarded year-long fellowships to seven Indian surgeons to specialize in Robotic Surgery in the areas of Urology, Gynecology and Head and Neck surgery.

The fellowships, sponsored by Vattikuti Foundation, will help the seven selected surgeons gain expertise in this emerging field as they will go through extensive training under the mentorship of eminent Robotic Surgeons in these three areas.

During their fellowship, the chosen surgeons would be trained in simulation-based dry laboratory for bedside patient assistance, patient positioning and port placement skills as well as in porcine laboratories (pig labs) for practical training. It is a highly structured program developed in collaboration with the Intuitive Surgical Inc. and other partner Vattikuti Institutions. The idea behind the fellowship is to grow the pool of trained robotic surgeons in India and prepare a competent robotic surgeon at the end of the program.

Vattikuti Foundation and the host institutions - New Delhi NCR's Medanta Vattikuti Institute, Escorts Fortis Institute, Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute; Apollo Hospital, Chennai; Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Kochi and Manipal Hospital, Bengaluru -- selected the seven candidates from a pool of over a hundred applicants with post graduate qualifications in surgery and a super specialization in urology, gynaecology or ENT.

Vattikuti Foundation already has Uro-oncology fellows working at the Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute, Delhi and Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, Mumbai.

In all, Vattikuti Foundation, which has been promoting Robotic Surgery in the US since 1997 right from the inception of robotic surgery, has committed to 100 fellowships in India by 2020.

"At the end of this rigorous training process, we expect these bright surgeons with impeccable qualifications to become accomplished Robotic Surgeons capable of handling procedures independently," says Dr. Mahendra Bhandari, CEO,

Vattikuti Foundation.

"The training will help Vattikuti Fellows imbibe a robust knowledge to stay at the cutting edge of technology in medicine," adds Dr. Bhandari who also serves as Director Robotic Research and Education, Vattikuti Urology Institute, Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit.

The seven selected Vattikuti Fellows will begin their training in robotic surgery by working with their mentors at New Delhi's Medanta Vattikuti Institute, Escorts Fortis Institute, and Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute; Apollo Hospitals, Chennai; Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Kochi and Manipal Hospital, Bengaluru starting October 2016.

Vattikuti Fellows
The fellows specializing in Urology-Dr. Kalpesh Parmar, Dr. Sachin Arakere, and Dr. K. R. Seetharam Bhat will be mentored by Medanta Vattikuti Institute's Dr. N.P Gupta, Escorts Fortis Institute's Dr. Rajesh Ahlawat and at Apollo Hospital Chennai's Dr. Sivaraman Ananthkrishnan.

Dr. Gaurav Desai and Dr. Sushil Kumar will specialize in Gynecological Oncology under the mentorship of Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences' Dr. Anupama Rajanbabu and Manipal Hospital's Dr. SP Somashekhar. In the field of Head and Neck Oncology Dr. Karan Gupta will be mentored by Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute's Dr. Surendra Dabas.

Vattikuti Foundation runs a medical student engagement program where identified Vattikuti Scholars (with a post graduate degree in surgery and a super specialization) are exposed to webinars and invitation to participate in bi-annual Robotic Surgeons Council meets.

Vattikuti Foundation Innovation Program
Under the Vattikuti Foundation Innovation program, surgeons working at the Vattikuti Urology Institute at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit developed several procedures such as Vattikuti Institute Radical Prostatectomy (VIP), Robotic Radical Cystectomy, Robotic Partial Nephrectomy, Robotic surgery for children and Vattikuti technique of robotic kidney transplant surgery. These techniques were developed at the Vattikuti Urology Institute, Henry Ford Hospital in collaboration with institutions in India and across the globe and have gone on to become the Gold standard for robotic urologic surgery.

American surgeon Dr. Mani Menon, Director of Vattikuti Urology Institute, Henry Ford Hospital has played a stellar role in leading the development of new applications of robotic surgery. Since then the Foundation has been working with surgeons around the world to pioneer various Robotic procedures including one for kidney transplant, developed together by Indian surgeons from Hospitals in Delhi and Ahmedabad.

Robotic Surgery in India: New Milestones
In the last 5 years, multi-disciplinary Robotic Surgery has established its value in India with documented superior patient outcomes and efficacy.

The Vattikuti Foundation has helped expand Robotic Surgery to over three dozen hospitals in a dozen Indian cities in just five years, while the number of trained robotic surgeons has crossed 200.

Indian surgeons have been adapting to this new-age tool with great enthusiasm and skill. At the forthcoming Robotic Surgeons' conference organised by the Foundation to be hosted by Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, Mumbai in November 2016 nearly 150 Robotic Surgeons are expected to participate and share their experiences and techniques.

Robotic Surgery Benefits
Robotic surgery scores over conventional surgery as it minimizes blood loss, drastically reduces the post-operative recovery time, and brings precision in executing the procedure, thus saving healthy tissue from damage. The faster healing and lower pain-levels translate to shorter hospital stays and quick return to work.

It is estimated that of the 20 million surgeries performed worldwide annually less than 100,000 surgeries are performed using a Surgical Robot.

Surgical Robots combine the best of science, engineering and medicine. With 4 arms, it can reach organs and areas where human fingers can't. The 3-dimensional view that can be magnified multifold, helps the surgeons achieve precision that prevents collateral damage to healthy tissue.

The single most important benefit of robotic surgery is quick recovery. If the patient is back home on the third day post surgery, instead of say a ten-day recovery period that's usual in conventional surgeries, a daily wage earner can get back to productive work much earlier, while the hospital can increase the efficiency of operations. There is little to no pain, as Robotic

arms enter the body via tiny incisions, healing is quicker for the patient, scarring is minimal and savings on pain management are significant.

As the incidence of tongue and mouth cancers are very high in India, Head and Neck surgery for cancer at the base of the tongue can best be undertaken using the Robot, with least pain and scarring to the patient.