

Geneva, 22 February 2005

Press release

The Générale-Beaulieu Clinic (CGB), with its partners Société Médicale de Beaulieu (SMB) and the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER), is the organiser of the European Robotic Urology Symposium (ERUS 2005) in co-operation with the Intuitive Surgical company. The symposium is taking place in Geneva on 24 and 25 February. Via live closed-circuit TV, the participants in the Louis-Jeantet Auditorium will be able to observe interventions being performed at the Générale-Beaulieu Clinic.

During the next two days, specialists from all over the world will be arriving in Geneva to attend a scientific event that has been awaited with suspense: the presentation of the latest developments in robot-assisted laparoscopic surgery.

Philippe Cassegrain, Director of the Générale-Beaulieu Clinic (CGB), is delighted to have the opportunity of hosting such a high-calibre symposium. *"Apart from the University Hospital in Zürich, CGB is Switzerland's only facility with Da Vinci medical technology. CGB's multidisciplinary Centre for Robot-Assisted Laparoscopic Surgery already acquired these complex medical systems in January 2003."*

"By hosting and organising ERUS 2005, we can demonstrate our open-mindedness toward tomorrow's medical technologies – they may be highly complex, but they offer patients much more comfort. We are also giving the physicians who come to Geneva for this event a platform for sharing experiences, forging contacts, and perhaps even initiating further progress."

For the medical part of the event, the committee in charge of the scientific programme is composed of three physicians: **Dr Charles-Henry Rochat**, urological surgeon and President of Société Médicale Beaulieu, **Dr Jean Sauvain**, urologist, and **Dr Georges-Antoine De Boccard**, also urologist. As these European pioneers point out: *"In the near future, many centres for robotic laparoscopy will be opening up throughout Europe."*

The first operation performed at the Générale-Beaulieu Clinic with the assistance of the "Da Vinci" robot took place on 8 January 2003. Since then, more than one hundred operations have been conducted with this technology, covering several medical disciplines (urology, gastrointestinal surgery, and gynaecology).

Robotic laparoscopy is a so-called minimally invasive method during which the surgeon works with remote controls and thanks to a three-dimensional image can see as much as during a classic intervention. During surgery, however, he sits at a console some distance away from the patient. Robot-assisted laparoscopy offers many benefits for the patient, including less blood loss, a smaller risk of infection, less pain, and shorter hospitalisation and convalescence times.

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"ERUS 2005 will allow us to compare, reconcile, and evaluate the technical details of the interventions, explained Dres Rochat, Sauvain, and De Boccard, our goal is to further intensify international co-operation on a more regular basis."

The complete programme of ERUS 2005 can be viewed on the website of the Générale-Beaulieu Clinic (French and English). The Symposium opens on 24 February at 8:30 AM. The key issues of the two-day event are:

- Launch of a **European evaluation protocol** (database) for robot-assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy;
- Creation of a "**Club of robot users**";
- Comparison of results of the centres for robot-assisted laparoscopic surgery with the goal of conducting **large-scale clinical studies**.

And last but not least, ERUS 2005 **participants will have the opportunity to test a new four-arm robot**.

On 24 and 25 February 2005, Geneva will be the global hub of medical innovation. ERUS 2005 is an event to which specialised and general-interest media are cordially invited (registration mandatory).

Useful links: www.beaulieu.ch
www.davinciprostatectomy.com
www.gfmer.ch

Media contacts and registration:

Press office:
Azconsulting
Philippe Amez-Droz
Public relations consultant
Tel. +41 22 786 76 86
Fax +41 22 786 76 87
e-mail: az@azconsulting.ch

Secretariat ERUS 2005:
Clinique Générale Beaulieu
Françoise Dimier
Executive secretary
Tel. +41 22 839 56 65
Fax +41 22 839 55 56
e-mail: fdimier@beaulieu.ch