



News Release

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3D Systems Collaborates with Industry Leaders to Provide Hands-on Training for Robotic Gynecologic Surgery

- Simulation-based hysterectomy procedure training with *Intuitive Surgical's da Vinci Xi*
- Task-based hysterectomy module developed in collaboration with the Fundamentals of Robotic Gynecologic Surgery (FRGS) group
- 3D Systems to exhibit at the upcoming American Association of Gynecological Laparoscopists (AAGL) Global Congress

ROCK HILL, South Carolina, November 13, 2015 – [3D Systems](#) (NYSE:DDD) today announced two healthcare collaborations, one with *Intuitive® Surgical* and one with Fundamentals of Robotic Gynecologic Surgery (FRGS) group, to develop unique training modules for the minimally invasive (MIS) robotic hysterectomy procedure.

Robotic surgery has developed rapidly since its approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 1999, as documented by the Society of Gynecologic Surgeons' Committee on Gynecologic Practice. To perform robot-assisted procedures, doctors operate through small surface incisions with equipment outfitted with tiny cameras to transmit real-time data to a large OR monitor. This type of surgery has grown popular due to lower levels of post-operative discomfort and faster recovery times, not to mention its cosmetic appeal over open surgeries. Today, robot-assisted surgery is performed at over 2,025 sites in the U.S., with the number of procedures growing at a rate of 25% annually (1).

As the second most common surgical procedure in the United States, nearly 433,000 hysterectomies are performed each year. While the majority of these operations are

still performed abdominally, MIS procedures are on the rise, with 9.5% of all hysterectomies performed robotically in 2010, up from 0.5% in 2007 (2).

3D Systems has been working to address the growing demand for training in this technologically advanced field of MIS robotic procedures by partnering with leading industry and scientific groups. The company's collaboration with *Intuitive Surgical* has enabled the offering of a training module for Hysterectomy on the *da Vinci Xi* surgical system. Using the newest robotic technology, the simulation enables hands-on training of a complete surgical procedure, with the ultimate goal of increasing patient safety. This collaboration is part of a mutual commitment to provide leading procedural simulation training to surgical institutions. [Click here to watch a video of the virtual reality simulation module \(contains graphic content\).](#)

3D Systems' collaboration with the FRGS group has led to the development of the [Hysterectomy Procedural Tasks](#) training module. The task-based module, which runs on 3D Systems' [RobotiX Mentor™](#), provides hands-on training of the key steps of the robotic hysterectomy surgical procedure as a part of the full education and training curriculum specified by the FRGS group. "The FRGS is excited to incorporate virtual reality surgical simulation for gaining the skills and knowledge critical to perform a successful robotic procedure," said Dr. Jeffrey Levy, Board Member for the Institute for Surgical Excellence (ISE). "We believe simulation-based education and training will enhance the quality and safety of patient care."

The new robotic training modules join 3D Systems' comprehensive line of Symbionix training products for Women's Health professionals, which will be available for hands-on demonstrations at the upcoming AAGL Global Congress, November 15-19, in Las Vegas, NV. The company also offers training for laparoscopic gynecologic surgery on the [LAP Mentor](#), including a hysterectomy team training option, transabdominal and transvaginal ultrasound practice on the [U/S Mentor](#), pelvic exam competency training on the [PELVIC Mentor](#), and [3D printed models](#) for planning and training.

About 3D Systems

3D Systems provides the most advanced and comprehensive 3D digital design and fabrication solutions available today, including 3D printers, print materials and cloud-sourced custom parts. Its powerful ecosystem transforms entire industries by empowering professionals and consumers everywhere to bring their ideas to life using its vast material selection, including plastics, metals, ceramics and edibles. 3D Systems' leading personalized medicine capabilities include end-to-end simulation, training and planning, and printing of surgical instruments and devices for personalized surgery and patient specific medical and dental devices. Its democratized 3D digital design, fabrication and inspection products provide seamless interoperability and incorporate the latest immersive computing technologies. 3D Systems' products and services disrupt traditional methods, deliver improved results and empower its customers to manufacture the future now.

More information on the company is available at www.3dsystems.com.

References:

Footnotes 1 and 2: Committee on Gynecologic Practice, Society of Gynecologic Surgeons, Number 628, March 2015

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