



PRESS RELEASE

June 20, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Percy Junor Hospital Embarks on Cutting-Edge Robotics Assisted Surgeries for Safer and More Efficient Procedures

The Percy Junor Hospital (PJH) in north east Manchester will be employing robotics assisted surgeries in its procedures, come Friday, June 21, to provide safer and more efficient surgeries for its clients.

General Surgeon and Senior Medical Officer at the hospital, Dr. Carlos Wilson explained that while robotics surgery is not new to Jamaica, to his knowledge, it is the first that the 360-degree freehand robotic camera holder, which is the up-to-date version and allows for 360 degrees rotation, will be utilized in the public health system in Jamaica.

A team of surgeons, nurses, nurse anaesthetists and operating theatre technicians from the Percy Junor, Mandeville Regional, Black River, May Pen and St. Ann's Bay hospitals were trained to use the 360-degree freehand robotic camera holder which is used for laparoscopic surgeries.

"Laparoscopic surgeries are done through tiny incisions where a camera is inserted into the abdomen of a patient and through the camera we are able to see inside the patient. We then make other tiny incisions to put the instruments in to complete the operation, so with this machine, a robot holds the camera. Normally you would have to have an assistant surgeon or nurse hold the camera for you and after about 30 minutes of holding that camera in place, sometimes it gets a little bit shaky and the vision is not that good" Dr. Wilson explained.

The Senior Medical Officer added that: "With this 236-degree free-hand, it holds the camera in position steadily for as long as you need it to be, up to eight hours. The surgeon now controls the camera so with a shift of the head and the press of a pedal, you can move the camera to the left, right, up, down, or zoom in or zoom out. This allows us to do the surgery in a more comfortable way and brings us into the twenty first century as it relates to robotics surgery."

Dr. Wilson noted that the expense of robotics surgery has made it difficult to be introduced generally; however, it has several benefits.

"It is safer for the patients and for the surgeons performing the operations. When we do an operation that lasts for over an hour and we have to be holding that camera, that leads to things like back aches and arthritis in surgeons and
(more)

Chairman: Wayne Chen; **Vice Chairman:** Michael Stern; **Board Members:** Lorraine Green Mason, Marcus Greenwood, Stafford Haughton, Winston Maragh, Dr. Lloyd Reynolds, Albert Williams, Omar Miller, Dave Powell, **Permanent Secretary's Nominee:** Dr. Naydene Williams, **Regional Director and Secretary:** Michael Bent; **Regional Technical Director:** Dr. Vitillius Holder; **CEO, Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Alwyn Miller; **SMO, Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Dr. Everton McIntosh

Mandeville Reg. Hospital
32 Hargreaves Avenue
Mandeville
Ph: (876) 962-2067/2744/1094
Fax: (876) 625-8493

May Pen Hospital
1 Muirhead Avenue
May Pen
Ph: (876) 986-2528/7708/6938
Fax: (876) 986-2650

Black River Hospital
45 High Street
Black River
Ph: (876) 965-2224/2212
(876) 634-3700
Fax: (876) 965-9294

Percy Junor Hospital
Spalding P.O.
Clarendon
Ph: (876) 964-1181/2222/2322
Fax: (876) 964-1548

Lionel Town Hospital
Bustamante Drive
Vere, Clarendon
Ph: (876) 986-3226
Fax: (876) 986-3373

Chapelton Hospital
Chapelton P.O.
Clarendon
Ph: (876) 987-2215

Manchester Health Dept.
Race Course Rd.
Mandeville
Ph: (876) 962-2288/7033
(876) 625-3433
Fax: (876) 962-2171

Clarendon Health Dept.
1-3 Jackson St. Denbigh
May Pen
Ph: (876) 986-7869
Fax: (876) 986-9713

St. Elizabeth Health Dept
High Street
Black River
Ph: (876) 965-9174-5
Fax: (876) 965-2701

Mandeville Reg. Hospital
32 Hargreaves Avenue
Mandeville
Ph: (876) 962-2067/2744/1094
Fax: (876) 625-8493

May Pen Hospital
1 Muirhead Avenue
May Pen
Ph: (876) 986-2528/7708/6938
Fax: (876) 986-2650

Black River Hospital
45 High Street
Black River
Ph: (876) 965-2224/2212
(876) 634-3700
Fax: (876) 965-9294

Percy Junor Hospital
Spalding P.O.
Clarendon
Ph: (876) 964-1181/2222/2322
Fax: (876) 964-1548

Lionel Town Hospital
Bustamante Drive
Vere, Clarendon
Ph: (876) 986-3226
Fax: (876) 986-3373

Chapelton Hospital
Chapelton P.O.
Clarendon
Ph: (876) 987-2215

Manchester Health Dept.
Race Course Rd.
Mandeville
Ph: (876) 962-2288/7033
(876) 625-3433
Fax: (876) 962-2171

Clarendon Health Dept.
1-3 Jackson St. Denbigh
May Pen
Ph: (876) 986-7869
Fax: (876) 986-9713

St. Elizabeth Health Dept
High Street
Black River
Ph: (876) 965-9174-5
Fax: (876) 965-2701

assistants which makes the operation more difficult. It makes the operations easier, safer for the patients and in time it should make the operations quicker because studies have shown it reduces the time of the operations by twenty percent. Hopefully we will be able to produce and present that research" Dr. Wilson said.

He added that the team is excited and looks forward to using the 360-degree freehand robotic camera holder in surgeries.

The machine was procured by the Southern Regional Health Authority through a partnership with A.A. Laquis Ltd. who provided the training. The company has offices in Jamaica, Barbados and its head office in Trinidad and Tobago.

The training was held at the PJH on June 19, 2024 at the Percy Junor Hospital.

Picture 1



Dirk Cabral, Clinical Sales Manager from A.A. Laquis (Trinidad & Tobago) Ltd. (left) explains the functions of the 360-degree freehand robotic camera holder to some of the surgeons, nurses, nurse anaesthetists and operating theatre technicians who were being trained.

(more)

Chairman: Wayne Chen; **Vice Chairman:** Michael Stern; **Board Members:** Lorraine Green Mason, Marcus Greenwood, Stafford Haughton, Winston Maragh, Dr. Lloyd Reynolds, Albert Williams, Omar Miller, Dave Powell, **Permanent Secretary's Nominee:** Dr. Naydene Williams, **Regional Director and Secretary:** Michael Bent; **Regional Technical Director:** Dr. Vitillius Holder; **CEO, Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Alwyn Miller; **SMO, Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Dr. Everton McIntosh

Picture 2



Some members of the health team listen intently to Dirk Cabral, Clinical Sales Manager from A.A. Laquis (Trinidad & Tobago) Ltd. As he explains the functions of the 360-degree freehand robotic camera holder.

-30-

For more information contact:
Public Relations Unit
Southern Regional Health Authority
Tel: 962-8232
Email: latoya.laylor@srha.gov.jm

Like and follow us:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/southernregionalhealthauthority

Instagram: <https://instagram.com/southernregionalhealthJA>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SRHAJamaica>

Youtube: [Southern Regional Health Authority](https://www.youtube.com/SouthernRegionalHealthAuthority)

Chairman: Wayne Chen; **Vice Chairman:** Michael Stern; **Board Members:** Lorraine Green Mason, Marcus Greenwood, Stafford Haughton, Winston Maragh, Dr. Lloyd Reynolds, Albert Williams, Omar Miller, Dave Powell, **Permanent Secretary's Nominee:** Dr. Naydene Williams, **Regional Director and Secretary:** Michael Bent; **Regional Technical Director:** Dr. Vitillius Holder; **CEO, Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Alwyn Miller; **SMO, Mandeville Regional Hospital:** Dr. Everton McIntosh

Mandeville Reg. Hospital
32 Hargreaves Avenue
Mandeville
Ph: (876) 962-2067/2744/1094
Fax: (876) 625-8493

May Pen Hospital
1 Muirhead Avenue
May Pen
Ph: (876) 986-2528/7708/6938
Fax: (876) 986-2650

Black River Hospital
45 High Street
Black River
Ph: (876) 965-2224/2212
(876) 634-3700
Fax: (876) 965-9294

Percy Junor Hospital
Spalding P.O.
Clarendon
Ph: (876) 964-1181/2222/2322
Fax: (876) 964-1548

Lionel Town Hospital
Bustamante Drive
Veré, Clarendon
Ph: (876) 986-3226
Fax: (876) 986-3373

Chapelton Hospital
Chapelton P.O.
Clarendon
Ph: (876) 987-2215

Manchester Health Dept.
Race Course Rd.
Mandeville
Ph: (876) 962-2288/7033
(876) 625-3433
Fax: (876) 962-2171

Clarendon Health Dept.
1-3 Jackson St. Denbigh
May Pen
Ph: (876) 986-7869
Fax: (876) 986-9713

St. Elizabeth Health Dept
High Street
Black River
Ph: (876) 965-9174-5
Fax: (876) 965-2701