



CLINICAL
ROBOTIC
SURGERY
ASSOCIATION

LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH TO IMPROVE OUR ROBOTIC CLINICAL PRACTICE



RALEIGH, NC and CHICAGO, IL (April 15, 2013) – Surgical Review Corporation (SRC) and the Clinical Robotic Surgery Association (CRSA) today announced the joint development of a global Center of Excellence in Robot-Assisted Laparoscopic Surgery (COERALS) program. Consistent with the quality and safety ideals held by both organizations, this designation program will identify, cultivate, support and recognize minimally invasive robotic surgery surgeons and facilities that achieve defined standards for excellence in general surgery and related specialties: upper gastrointestinal, hepatopancreatobiliary, thoracic, colorectal, vascular, transplant, otolaryngology, endocrine, oncology and bariatric.

CRSA and SRC will develop the set of standards and criteria for evaluating providers performing robotic surgery, and SRC will independently manage all operational aspects of the program. A vital component of COERALS will be a comprehensive surgical outcomes database and patient registry that will provide clinical data and support research efforts to improve patient safety, care and surgical outcomes. The database will be developed by SRC and powered by its proprietary BOLD™ application framework. BOLD is the largest global database for bariatric surgery with more than 500,000 patient records, and will support outcomes data collection for AAGL's Center of Excellence in Minimally Invasive Gynecology program.

"COERALS is much more than a certificate program. We are establishing clinical quality and patient safety standards for robotic surgery and driving continuous improvement through outcomes data," said Neil Hutcher, MD, Chief Medical Officer and Vice President of SRC. "Achieving designation is an ongoing process of meeting and maintaining program requirements, continued learning and regular review. SRC is proud of CRSA's commitment to excellence and honored to partner with them on this endeavor."

The COERALS program will provide two distinct and flexible designation types. A "surgeon-only" option – the Surgeon of Excellence in Robot-Assisted Laparoscopic Surgery (SOERALS) designation – will be for surgeons interested in applying solely through their private practice or without a specific hospital. This option also benefits surgeons operating in multiple hospitals. A "facility + surgeon" option will designate the hospital-based robotic surgery program and individual surgeons together. Dual designations are offered for those surgeons who want to participate in both programs. SRC program managers will assist providers in selecting the most appropriate designation types.

"We are committed to building a treatment standard and clinical pathway structure from which all hospitals and surgeons can learn and follow as they achieve designation at their own pace and within their own resources," said Pier Cristoforo Giulianotti, MD, Past-President of CRSA and Chief of the University of Illinois Medical Center's Division of General, Minimally Invasive and Robotic Surgery. "This approach allows all robot-assisted surgery programs to benefit from COERALS whether or not they choose to seek designation. The COERALS program will seamlessly align with CRSA's aim to provide clinical, educational and innovative services in a manner that will support the true mission of facilitating robotic techniques in general surgery and related specialties."

The COERALS designation program will launch in July 2013, with development of a robotic surgery outcomes database to follow in the fall.



About Surgical Review Corporation

Surgical Review Corporation (SRC) is an independent, nonprofit organization governed by industry stakeholders and dedicated to advancing the safety, efficacy and efficiency of surgical care worldwide. Initially focused on bariatric and metabolic surgery, SRC has emerged as the leading administrator of Center of Excellence and Surgeon of Excellence programs for surgical specialties such as minimally invasive gynecology, hernia surgery and robotic surgery. The organization manages programs on behalf of top medical societies around the world, setting a global standard for excellence. To support program compliance and quality improvement in patient care, SRC developed BOLD, a longitudinal outcomes database. BOLD is the world's largest repository of clinical patient data for the bariatric surgery specialty. For more information, visit www.surgicalreview.org.

About the Clinical Robotic Surgery Association

Founded in 2009, the Clinical Robotic Surgery Association (CRSA) is a surgery specialty society created to address practical issues focusing on general surgery and its related specialties: Upper GI; HPB; Thoracic; Colorectal; Vascular; Transplant; ENT; Endocrine; Oncology; Bariatric. CRSA's aim is to provide clinical, educational and innovative services in a manner that will support the true mission of facilitating robotic techniques. CRSA offers the ideal forum to compare and discuss practical aspects of surgery, and facilitates the opportunity to connect colleagues, experts, proctors and trainers. CRSA consistently supports multi-institutional, clinical and experimental research aimed at expanding the application of robotic surgery. CRSA develops and supports standards of practice that encourage quality improvement for the purpose of enhancing patient safety. For more information, visit www.clinicalrobotics.com.