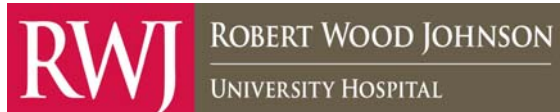




ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON  
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### **Head of Urologic Oncology at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey Marks 500<sup>th</sup> Robotic Prostatectomy**

*Surgeon at Robert Wood Johnson Shows Procedure Becoming Fast-Growing Standard of Care in the State*

**New Brunswick, N.J., May 15, 2009** – Marking a unique milestone in prostate cancer surgery, the director of urologic oncology at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ) has completed his 500<sup>th</sup> robotic prostatectomy at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital (RWJUH), the Flagship Hospital of CINJ, which is a Center of Excellence of UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

Isaac Kim, MD, PhD, assistant professor of surgery at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, performed the operation this week on a patient from Ocean County with early stage prostate cancer. Robotic prostatectomy allows a surgeon to control a set of robotic arms that hold the surgical instruments used to remove the patient's cancer. Unlike traditional prostate surgery that results in a six-inch scar, patients that undergo this precise and minimally invasive surgical technique are left with incisions smaller than a quarter.

Dr. Kim notes the procedure allows for additional precision, reduced blood loss, shorter hospital stays and faster recovery for the patient. “During this four-year stretch leading up to the 500 mark, none of the patients received blood transfusions and the average hospital stay was 1.2 days,” he says. “Patients are clearly having positive outcomes.”

Patient Daniel Iadonisi’s cancer was found during a routine check-up, when his prostate-specific antigen (PSA) level had increased from the previous year. A biopsy confirmed his doctor’s suspicion.

The 53-year-old Brick resident had most of his left lung removed ten years ago from an inflammatory disease known as sarcoidosis. The surgical method he chose then, Video-Assisted Thoracic Surgery (VATS), was extremely advanced for its time. Mr. Iadonisi notes he chose Kim and a robotic prostatectomy for many of the same reasons he chose the VATS procedure: “It is minimally invasive, has a faster recovery time and is performed by a top surgeon.” He adds that since he tries to run five miles every day and spend quality time with his wife and four children when not traveling for work, the robotic prostatectomy just made sense. “Because of my active lifestyle, it is important for me to get back to a normal regimen as soon as possible. The robotic procedure will allow me to do that.”

Fewer than 20 hospitals across New Jersey offer the procedure, and RWJUH is one of only two hospitals in the state designated to teach other surgeons how to use the robotic system. According to experts, 75 percent of prostate cancer surgeries nationwide are being done via this method. Kim says those figures are sure to increase in the coming years. “As technology continues to improve, we are on our way to seeing

this procedure done through the body's natural orifices with no breaks in the skin at all," he says. "But certainly the current method is leaps and bounds over the traditional surgery."

Kim's achievement also includes surgeries done via a new, enhanced technique known as Athermal Intrafascial Robotic (AIR) prostatectomy, which he developed. In the AIR procedure, the nerve that controls a man's ability to have an erection is better preserved by sparing over 90 percent of the tissues that surrounds the prostate as compared to 40 to 50 percent in the conventional open or robotic radical prostatectomy. Kim says by undergoing the AIR prostatectomy, patients are able to regain sexual function and bladder control more quickly. It also reduces incontinence.

According to the American Cancer Society, one in six men is diagnosed with prostate cancer. It is the most frequently diagnosed cancer in men, other than skin cancer, and the second leading cause of cancer death in men. Last year, 183,000 new cases of the disease were diagnosed nationwide, with the illness affecting more African-American men than those of Asian or Caucasian descent. In New Jersey, there were 5,000 new cases in 2008 with 800 deaths.

### **About The Cancer Institute of New Jersey**

The Cancer Institute of New Jersey ([www.cinj.org](http://www.cinj.org)) is the state's first and only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, and is dedicated to improving the prevention, detection, treatment and care of patients with cancer. CINJ's physician-scientists engage in translational research, transforming their laboratory discoveries into clinical practice, quite literally bringing research to life. The Cancer Institute of New Jersey is a center of excellence of UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. To support CINJ, please call the Cancer Institute of New Jersey Foundation at 1-888-333-CINJ.

The Cancer Institute of New Jersey Network is comprised of hospitals throughout the state and provides a mechanism to rapidly disseminate important discoveries into the community. Flagship Hospital: Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. Major Clinical Research Affiliate Hospitals: Carol G. Simon Cancer Center at Morristown Memorial Hospital, Carol G. Simon Cancer Center at Overlook Hospital, and Jersey Shore University Medical Center. Affiliate Hospitals: Bayshore Community Hospital, CentraState Healthcare System, Cooper University Hospital\*, JFK Medical Center, Raritan Bay Medical Center, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Hamilton (CINJ at Hamilton), Saint Peter's University Hospital, Somerset Medical Center, Southern Ocean County Hospital, The University Hospital/UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School\*, and University Medical Center at Princeton. \*Academic Affiliate

### **About Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital**

Selected as one of four hospitals nationwide to offer the world's first self-contained implantable artificial heart, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital ([www.rwjuh.edu](http://www.rwjuh.edu)) is a 600-bed academic medical center and the principal hospital of UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Brunswick, NJ. Robert Wood Johnson is an innovative leader in advancing state-of-the-art care in medicine. Its Centers of Excellence include cardiovascular care from minimally invasive heart surgery to transplantation, cancer care, and women's and children's care including The Bristol-Myers Squibb Children's Hospital at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital ([www.bmsch.org](http://www.bmsch.org)). The hospital is also a Level 1 Trauma Center and serves as a national resource in its ground-breaking approaches to emergency preparedness. The hospital has earned significant national recognition for clinical quality and patient safety. Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital is ranked among the top 50 hospitals in the nation for both heart and heart surgery and respiratory disorders, according to *U.S. News & World Report's* 2008 ranking of "America's Best Hospitals." The American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer has rated Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital among the nation's best comprehensive cancer centers. The Leapfrog Group rated Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital as one of the 50 exceptional U.S. hospitals, as published in *Consumers Digest* magazine. Harvard University researchers, in a study commissioned by The Commonwealth Fund, identified Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital as one of the top 10 hospitals

in the nation for clinical quality. Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital is also a recipient of the prestigious Magnet Award for Nursing Excellence for more than 10 consecutive years.

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