



# ROBOTIC SURGERY

**Coming to Surrey  
Memorial Hospital**

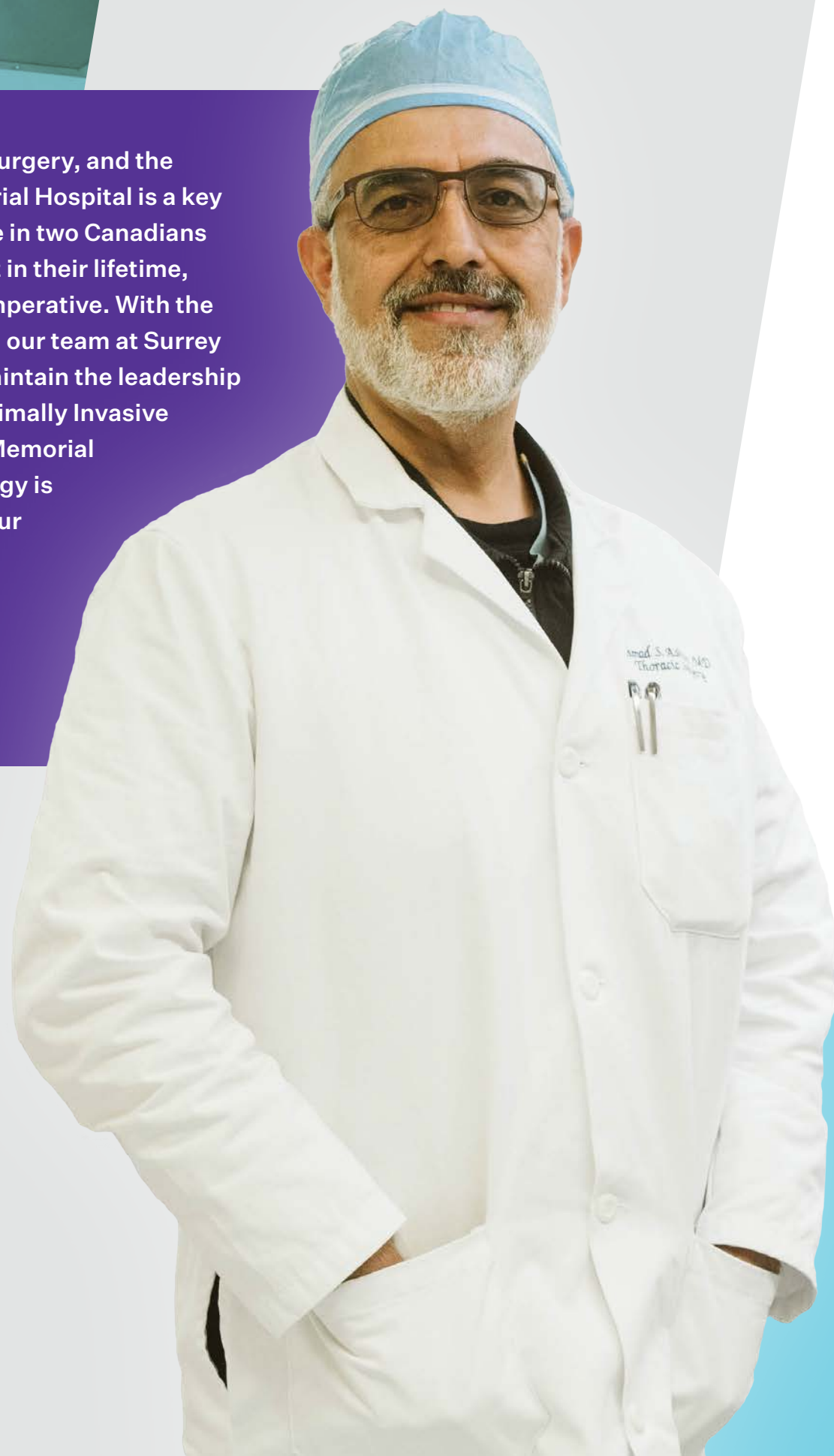
March 2025



**SURREY  
HOSPITALS  
FOUNDATION**

“Technology is revolutionizing the field of surgery, and the Regional Robotic Program at Surrey Memorial Hospital is a key driver of this transformation. Given that one in two Canadians will be diagnosed with cancer at some point in their lifetime, advancements in surgical techniques are imperative. With the integration of the Da Vinci Surgical System, our team at Surrey Memorial Hospital will be empowered to maintain the leadership we have shown in the field of Advanced Minimally Invasive Thoracic and Foregut Surgery. For Surrey Memorial Hospital, embracing cutting-edge technology is essential to delivering exceptional care to our expanding community.”

Dr. Ahmad Ashrafi, MD, FRCS(C), Regional Division Head and Chief of Thoracic Surgery-Fraser Health Authority, and Recipient of the Sherrold Haddad Excellence in Medicine Award.



# A Step Forward in Cancer Care with Robotic Surgery

Surrey Memorial Hospital (SMH) is the busiest surgical site in the Fraser Health region,

## 21,000 Surgeries

70 surgeons perform over 21,000 surgeries annually across 10 specialties.

## 60% Cancer-Related

Over 60 per cent of these surgeries are cancer-related.

Two areas where robotic surgery is making a life-changing difference are **lung** and **throat cancer**. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in Canada, while throat cancer is now the second most common type of head and neck cancer. Robotic surgery offers a less invasive approach, reducing trauma and enhancing surgical precision. This enables patients to recover quicker, experience less pain, and return to their daily lives sooner.

With the rising number of throat cancer cases among younger patients, along with a high volume of complex cancer surgeries at SMH, the need for robotic surgery is more urgent than ever.

## This is why we need your help

to establish a Regional Robotic Surgery Program for ENT (ear, nose, throat) and thoracic (lung, chest, stomach, esophagus) procedures at Surrey Memorial Hospital.

## Your generous support

will enable us to continue providing transformative care, advancing treatment options, and saving lives.



# The Urgent Need for Robotic Surgery in Fraser Health

Robotic surgery is widely used in hospitals across the United States and Europe, with more than one million procedures performed annually worldwide.

**In Canada, however, only about 5,000 robotic surgeries are conducted each year due to the limited number of available surgical robots.**



British Columbia, in particular, has extremely limited access, with only two surgical robotics programs as of March 2025, with only one available in Metro Vancouver. As a result, patients south of the Fraser often lack access to advanced treatments because state-of-the-art medical equipment is available at only one hospital. Currently, individuals requiring complex surgeries must travel to Vancouver, often crossing multiple bridges to reach this life-saving technology. Due to high demand, patients frequently face long wait times, which can be physically and emotionally devastating—especially for cancer patients.

This lack of access severely impacts the care available to the two million people across Fraser Health and highlights the urgent need for a local solution.

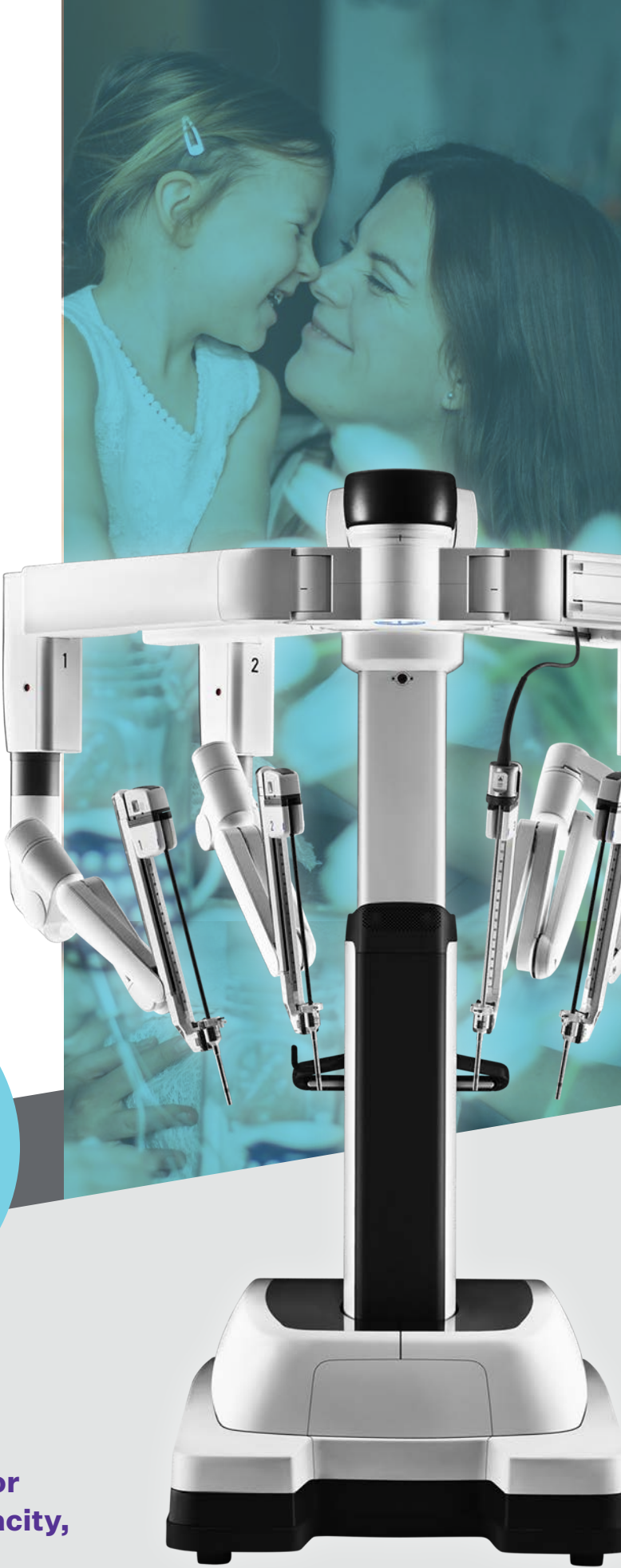
# How Robotic Surgery Will Save Lives

The program will introduce the **da Vinci Xi Robotic Surgical System**, initially dedicated to ENT (ear, nose, throat) and thoracic (lung, chest, stomach, esophagus) procedures, and will align with the opening of a **newly designed operating room at the hospital**.

By establishing a **Regional Robotic Surgery Program at Surrey Memorial Hospital (SMH)**, we will save over **288 bed days each year**. This means less invasive surgeries, allowing patients to recover faster and be discharged sooner to heal at home — freeing up critical hospital beds for other patients in need. With more efficient use of resources, we can treat more patients, reduce wait times, and provide quicker, high-quality care.



**Your support will help establish Surrey Memorial Hospital as a regional centre for robotic surgeries, enhance hospital capacity, and improve the overall health care experience — close to home.**



# What is Robotic Surgery?

Robotic surgery is an advanced, minimally invasive technique that enables surgeons to perform complex procedures with greater precision. Using a surgeon-controlled console, robotic arms operate with exceptional accuracy, guided by a high-definition vision system. The da Vinci Surgical System is recognized worldwide as the gold standard for robotic surgery.

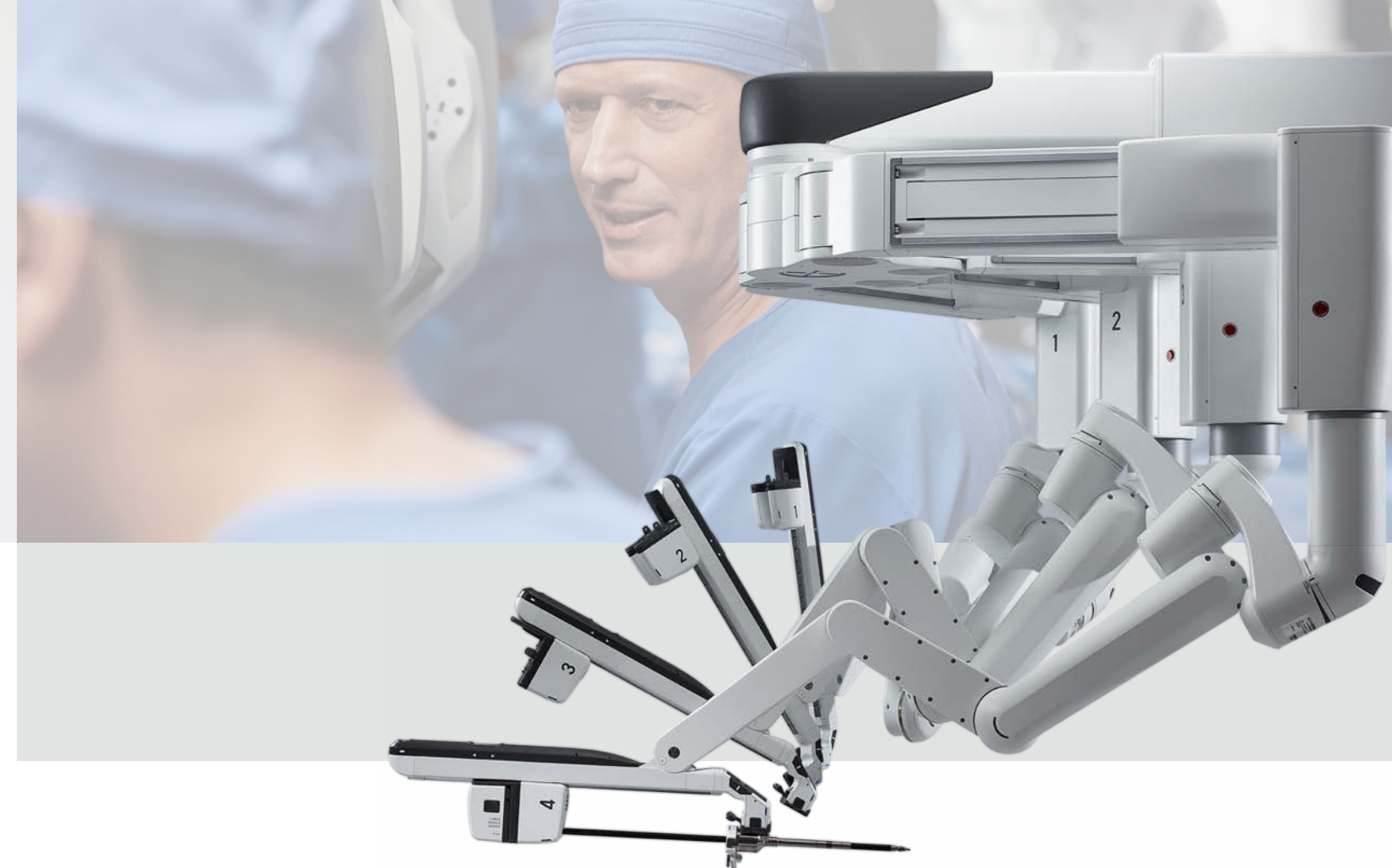
The Surrey Hospitals Foundation is fundraising to purchase the da Vinci Xi model, which offers the most advanced features for ENT (ear, nose, and throat) and thoracic (lung, chest, esophagus, and stomach) procedures.



**Oleksandr Butskiy MD, MHSc, FRCSC,**  
Head and Neck Surgical Oncologist and  
Reconstructive Surgeon



“As a surgeon specializing in head and neck cancer, I am witnessing a devastating rise in a highly treatable form of throat cancer caused by HPV. This cancer is affecting younger, healthier individuals, often non-smokers under 50. What makes this so challenging is that traditional treatments for throat cancer, such as chemotherapy and radiation, can result in lifelong side effects, leaving patients to fight not only the cancer but also the consequences of the treatment. But there is hope. With new developments in robotic surgery, we now have the opportunity to treat complex cancers more effectively, with faster recovery, greater precision, and minimal invasiveness.”



## Key features of the da Vinci Xi model:

- **3D HD Visualization:** Provides high-resolution with fluorescence imaging helping surgeons see the smallest anatomical structures beyond the naked eye.
- **Precision and Control:** Enables surgeons to perform complex operations on delicate tissues for specialized cancer surgery procedures.
- **Minimized Invasiveness:** Robotic arms operate through small incisions, reducing trauma to surrounding tissues.
- **Enhanced Comfort:** Surgeons work from a comfortable console, reducing fatigue and allowing for longer, more precise surgeries.



# Why Robotic Surgery Matters

The global adoption of robotic surgery is growing rapidly. Between 2015 and 2019, the number of robotic surgeries **doubled**, reflecting its significant benefits:

**Improved Surgical Safety:** With enhanced precision and advanced tools, robotic surgery supports safer, more effective procedures for patients.

**Robotic Surgery Research Opportunities:** The integration of robotic surgery creates new research possibilities, particularly in cancer, advancing surgical practices in the upcoming future.

**Professional Growth:** Surgeons and health care providers will have access to advanced training and development, enhancing their skills and expertise in the latest surgical techniques. This will also help attract world-class medical staff to deliver the best care.

**Reduced Surgeon Fatigue:** The design of the robotic consoles minimizes physical strain on surgeons, allowing them to maintain focus and perform complex surgeries with greater accuracy and efficiency.

**Improved Access to Care:** Patients across Metro Vancouver will experience shorter wait times and faster access to life-saving treatments with the increased availability of robotic surgical systems.

**More Treatment Options:** Robotic surgery expands the availability of advanced treatment options for conditions like lung and throat cancers, allowing for more patients to receive care, sooner.

**Comprehensive Cancer Care:** In addition to surgery, it will offer complete cancer care, including reconstructive procedures and advanced treatments for head and neck cancer patients.

**Faster Recovery:** Thanks to smaller incisions and reduced trauma, patients can expect shorter hospital stays and quicker returns to their everyday lives.

**Less Pain:** Smaller incisions also mean less damage to the body, leading to less pain and a decreased need for pain medication, which helps save on medication costs and makes recovery easier and more comfortable.

**Reduced Risk of Complications:** Robotic surgery's enhanced precision reduces surgical site infections and blood loss, improving safety for patients undergoing extremely delicate procedures.

**Access to the Latest Technology:** Patients will receive safer and more precise results through the use of advanced surgical tools, leading to better outcomes, especially in complex surgeries.



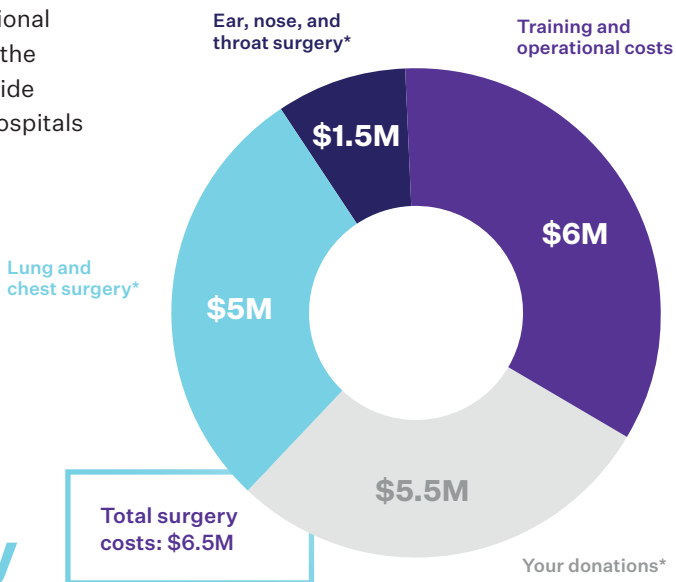
# How You Can Help

Surrey Hospitals Foundation is proud to partner with the Fraser Health Authority and the Provincial Government to establish the Regional Robotic Surgery Program at Surrey Memorial Hospital. While the Fraser Health Authority and the Provincial Government provide essential operational and infrastructure support, Surrey Hospitals Foundation is dedicated to raising funds to purchase this advanced equipment, provide specialized training for surgeons, and support surgical innovations that will enhance patient care in our region.

Together we  
can achieve  
extraordinary  
milestones.

At Surrey Hospitals Foundation, we see a future where world-class surgeons save lives using the latest technology in state-of-the-art facilities. To turn this vision into reality, we are endeavouring to raise **\$5.5 million** from generous donors like you.

Your support will help us acquire the da Vinci Xi Robotic Surgical System, expand operating rooms, train world-class surgeons, and secure the future of surgery at Surrey Memorial Hospital—enhancing care for patients across Fraser Health, especially those battling cancer.



## Donate today and help shape the future of surgery at Surrey Memorial Hospital.

### How to Donate

**Visit:** [www.surreyhospitalsfoundation.com](http://www.surreyhospitalsfoundation.com)

**Call:** 604 588 3371

**Email:** [info@surreyhospitalsfoundation.com](mailto:info@surreyhospitalsfoundation.com)

**Mailing Address:**  
Surrey Hospitals Foundation  
13750 96 Avenue, Surrey,  
BC V3V 1Z2

Now, we are asking you to make a donation to help the Foundation purchase the advanced da Vinci Xi Robotic Surgical System.

We're here for you.  
**DONATE TODAY**



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**Help shape the  
future of surgery**