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## Major Milestone: Virtua Successfully Completes 400th Single-Port Robotic Procedure

This past week, Virtua surgeons performed the system’s 400th single-port robotic-assisted procedure. Virtua is one of only about 175 systems in the country utilizing this technology, and the only system in our tri-county region. In fact, Virtua offers single-port procedures at two locations—Virtua Voorhees and Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes hospitals. The advanced surgical technique is used for hysterectomies, nephrectomies, urologic conditions, and other complex procedures.

“Through only one surgical incision, this advanced technique allows for less pain and a shorter recovery time,” said Craig Zaretsky, MD, chair of Virtua Surgery South and VP of VMG Clinical Operations. “Not only have we reached the 400 milestone, our expertise continues to expand. Just last week, surgeons at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital completed their 100th single-port robotic urologic procedure.”

Single-port robotic procedures are just part of the array of robotic-assisted surgeries that Virtua surgeons perform. To learn more about robotic surgery at Virtua, click [here](#).

## Marking 5 Years of COVID-19

Five years ago this week, the world braced for what would become months of lockdowns, social distancing, and fear about a fast-spreading virus soon to be a household name. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization first

characterized COVID-19 as a “pandemic,” stating, “We have rung the alarm bell loud and clear.” Health care was then challenged to answer that call.

“We responded as an organization in a defining way of collaboration and partnership,” said Martin Topiel, MD, Virtua’s chief infection control officer. “Our colleagues on the front lines truly manifested caring concern for their patients. They demonstrated why they initially chose this honorable vocation of delivering health care to the community daily with dedication and bravery. The Covid-19 pandemic, while devastating, taught us how to work together and solve problems. And it revealed the importance of every individual colleague in our team and organization.”

It is worth noting that back in May 2021, Virtua Health honored Dr. Topiel as the first recipient of the Achievement Award in Clinical Excellence for his role in Virtua’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As head of infection control, he developed and led safety and quality procedures and processes to keep frontline staff safe, launched innovative treatment and evaluation centers for patients, and served as a reassuring and steady leader in Virtua’s response to the ongoing public health crisis. [Click here for a photo](#) of Dr. Topiel receiving the honor from Virtua President and CEO Dennis Pullin.

## **Important Change Starting March 17: On-Call Schedule in QGenda**

The Qlik on-call system is retiring beginning **Monday, March 17**, and will be replaced by QGenda On-Call Management. Clinicians will be able to access the QGenda system to view their on-call schedule from the website or mobile application. Instructions are provided below for how to log in. If you do not need to see your on-call schedule, no action is required.

Please note that the Qlik On-Call system is different than Qlik messaging which was retired last fall. Qlik On-Call is an application that is used to store on-call schedules and is being retired in favor of QGenda.

Additionally, the owners of the on-call schedules were communicated with, and they were provided with information on how to access the system and where to find training.

Please review the information below to prepare for the QGenda transition from Qlik.

### **Preparing for Go-Live:**

- The training videos below will walk you through the QGenda application.
  - [Virtua End-User Training - QGenda Desktop](#)
  - [Virtua End-User Training – QGenda Mobile App](#)
- To sign in to QGenda, use your Virtua email credentials at [login.qgenda.com](http://login.qgenda.com)
- Save the log-in link to your favorites.
- Download the QGenda mobile app in the IOS or Android store.

**Also Note:**

- If your department currently keeps the on-call schedule on Qlik **AND** in another format (Colleague Corner, SharePoint, Amion, or other external systems), your schedule will continue to live in all systems until the QGenda implementation is finalized in July.

## Spreading Awareness on Kidney Disease—Today and Every Day

Today is World Kidney Day, an opportunity to educate the public about the importance of early detection of kidney disease and to encourage people to get regular check-ups with their health care providers. “As all clinicians know, far too many people are unaware of the signs and symptoms of kidney disease,” said Simona Rossi, MD, administrative medical director of Transplant and Organ Health Services with medical oversight of all current organ transplant services.

Virtua Advanced Transplant & Organ Health is the only kidney transplant center in South Jersey. “Our kidney care specialists are experts in the diagnosis and treatment of chronic kidney disease and other renal disorders,” said Dr. Rossi. “But we can’t help those who don’t even realize they are affected. Without early detection, the opportunity to slow progression of disease gets missed.”

“Over 35 million Americans are living with chronic kidney disease,” said transplant nephrologist Anita Mehrotra, MD, who recently assumed oversight of quality and safety of the transplant program as medical director of quality for transplantation services. “Most of those patients, probably close to 90% of them, don’t know that they are living with chronic kidney disease. It’s a silent disease, and the symptoms are nonexistent in the early stages, so people may go for a long time living with CKD not realizing they have it because it’s asymptomatic. It really only becomes symptomatic in the late stages.”

To learn more about kidney care at Virtua, please visit [go.virtua.org/VATOH](http://go.virtua.org/VATOH).

# Clinicians Inspiring Gratitude: All In on Excellence 2025

Clinicians inspire much gratitude from our patients. This week, we watch [Gratitude-Inspired Philanthropy Tip #3: Understanding Common Caregiver Concerns](#) featuring Sarah Fawcett-Lee, SVP and chief philanthropy officer at Virtua.

While this tip marks the end of the All In on Excellence 2025 series, stay tuned for a new series to commence in April. Until then, if you missed a tip or two in January or February, take a moment to catch up. Visit the [Practicing Excellence page on the Colleague Corner](#).

## What Patients Are Saying About Our Clinicians

Confidence in care is a common reference among our clinician reviews. Note the following recent examples and how the patient felt about the experience, and the clinician referenced:

“Dr. Salerno's care is always 100%. He listens to everything. He's a phenomenal doctor and I've been with him for 20-something years.” **(Anthony P. Salerno, MD)**

“Dr. Shy is simply the best. She has this way of comforting you with zero judgment and she truly listens. I always leave feeling heard and taken care of. Highly recommend!” **(Elizabeth Shy, MD)**

“I love her! She takes her time with her patients and is always willing to listen.” **(Kristin Dick, APN)**

“Easy to make appointments for visits and testing. The medical assistant was informative and so nice. The physician was easy to talk to and very prepared for my appointment by reviewing my medical records prior.” **(Apurva Desai, DO)**

“My disabled adult grandson had to have surgery. The doctor was very caring and professional, checking on him post-surgery at home.” **(John D. Jennings, MD)**

## ***SJ Mag Media* Top Docs for Kids 2025 Released**

As reported in *Clinician Update* in December, *SJ Mag Media* surveyed area physicians to share who they would call if a young family member needed care.

The list has been published. Click [here](#) to see the doctors most mentioned by their peers, and it includes many Rowan-Virtua as well as CHOP at Virtua physicians.

**While on the topic of top doctors, *SJ Mag Media's* top doctor balloting is now open for physicians and patients.**

- Click [here as a physician](#) to vote.
- Share this [Top Doc Patient Poll](#) with your patients, friends, and family.

The deadline for voting for both is **March 31 at 5 p.m.**

To view the physicians who were selected by their peers and patients as a *SJ Mag Media* 2024 Top Doc, click [here](#).

## **Investigator-Initiated Research on the Upswing**

While Virtua has an existing industry-sponsored research program, the relationship with Rowan has created an opportunity to further develop opportunities for investigator-initiated research where our clinicians are designing and conducting their own research studies independently or in partnership with Rowan faculty.

“Scientists in the lab from Rowan paired with expert Virtua clinicians are collaborating to conduct cutting-edge research that will offer therapeutic innovations to our patients and far beyond. This would not be possible without the partnership between Virtua and Rowan,” said Amy Glasofer, PhD, DrNP, RN, NE-BC, who serves in a joint appointment between Virtua Health and Rowan University as the director of investigator- initiated research.

### **Virtua Clinicians Currently Making Strides in Research**

This year, two projects are already approved and underway. Virtua orthopedic trauma surgeon Christopher Haydel, MD, is leading a study alongside Mohammad Abedin-Nassab, PhD, associate professor of biomedical engineering at Rowan. They are working jointly on an NIH-funded project to develop a robotic surgery system to align fractured long bones.

As reported on January 30 in [Clinician Update](#), Emilio Mazza, MD, PhD, medical director of the ICU at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes, and Kingsley Yin, PhD, associate professor in Rowan’s Department of Molecular Biology, are examining the role of specialized pro-resolving mediators, myeloid-derived suppressor cells

(MDSCs), and monocytes in patients with sepsis. The first patient was successfully enrolled in February.

## **Looking Ahead**

Five additional joint projects are in development, four of which have received funding from the New Jersey Health Foundation.

“There is much excitement in this field, as increasing opportunities for and infrastructure to support Rowan medical student and faculty research at Virtua,” said Dr. Glasofer.

If interested to learn more, or to get involved, reach Dr. Glasofer at [aglasofer@virtua.org](mailto:aglasofer@virtua.org).

## **Virtua in the News**

### **Dr. Topiel Addresses the Measles Outbreak**

This highly contagious illness continues to spread across the country. Martin Topiel, MD, Virtua’s chief infection control officer, discussed the outbreak and offered advice. Read in [The Courier-Post](#). Virtua also recently added information on our website for public awareness: [Vaccinations: Do We Need Boosters?](#)

### **CEO Shares Plans for Major Construction, Renovations**

Transformative building projects are underway at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes and Virtua Mount Holly hospitals, as the organization enhances its capacity, capabilities, and technology for the future.

These investments “will enable us to provide care in the manner that we feel is necessary,” said Dennis Pullin, Virtua’s president and CEO. Virtua also plans renovations to its Barry D. Brown Health Education Center and the building that houses its EMS fleet, as well as expansion of its partnership with Rowan University, among other initiatives. Read in the [Philadelphia Business Journal](#).

### **Virtua’s Robotic-Surgery Capabilities Highlighted**

An area business magazine has recognized Virtua’s leadership in robotic-assisted surgery in its annual “Best of Health Care” feature. The organization “has become a top robotic surgery provider for dozens of procedures, both regionally and nationally,” the publication reported.

An early adopter of robotic surgery, Virtua has provided more than 43,000 of these procedures since 2006. Virtua has 70-plus board-certified, robotically trained surgeons across 10 specialties, using 22 next-generation robotic surgical systems.

“Robotic assistance makes me a better surgeon,” said Jeremy Reid, MD, a Virtua joint-replacement specialist. “I’m able to execute the plan for that patient with greater precision every time.”

Read in [South Jersey Biz](#).

## **Safety Awareness Now and Every Week**

It’s National Patient Safety Awareness Week (March 9 to 15). Everybody always has a role to play in advancing safety in our health care system, as we follow the measures for prevention and evidence-based practice.

## **Share With Your Patients: Feedback Sought for Improving Social Determinants of Health**

Virtua Health and the South Jersey Health Collaborative (SJHC) are gathering data to learn more about the barriers in improving health and social determinants of health across South Jersey. Please feel free to share with your patients. The anonymous survey should take about 10 minutes. A printable flyer is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). Or go to: [https://www.research.net/r/Virtua\\_SJHC\\_25](https://www.research.net/r/Virtua_SJHC_25).

**The survey has been extended for participation through March 21.**

## **Emergency Medicine CME Event, May 8**

The Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine will be hosting the 2nd Annual South Jersey Emergency Medicine Symposium on **Thursday, May 8**, from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Top Golf in Mount Laurel. The CME event will provide updates in the specialty of emergency medicine in various topics required to practice the specialty. The relevance to the South Jersey regional area is highlighted by this conference, as there is currently no specific emergency medicine CME events being offered to the physicians who practice in this area without a great distance of travel.

Learning Objectives:

- Demonstrate knowledge of updates in stroke care
- Differentiate the presentations of cardiotoxic medications and the treatment of these toxidromes
- Apply the knowledge of emergent stabilization and interventions in acute gastrointestinal bleeding
- Explain the various and recommended treatments for status epilepticus
- Define the knowledge of transfer laws and EMTALA
- Perform a resuscitation with limited resources

**Register before March 14 for discounted pricing.** The event will include lunch/golf. For CME credit details and to register, click [here](#).

## Spread the Word — Camp Oasis Returns June 1

Presented by the Penn Medicine | Virtua Health Cancer Program, Camp Oasis is a free, spirit-lifting one-day getaway camp for children who have a parent or loved one with cancer.

Registration is already open for the summer session on **Sunday, June 1 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Please help spread the word by sharing the [Camp Oasis Brochure](#) with your teams, patients, and anyone who may be interested in participating.

For more information and online registration, visit [GiveToVirtua.org/CampOasis](https://GiveToVirtua.org/CampOasis).



Virtua Health

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