



Clinician Update

June 19, 2025



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Virtua First in Eastern U.S. to Fully Upgrade to da Vinci 5

Virtua is steadily progressing in its system-wide transition to the da Vinci 5 robotic-assisted surgery system—the most advanced platform of its kind. With the installation of the new system already complete at Virtua Voorhees, Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes, and Virtua Marlton, the transition is expected to be finalized in the first week of July at Virtua Mount Holly and Virtua Willingboro hospitals, as well as at more than a dozen outpatient surgery sites.

“Every advancement helps us do our jobs even better,” said Craig Zaretsky, MD, chairman of Virtua’s department of surgery. “As technology continually evolves, we’re committed to embracing and implementing these life-changing developments.”

Read more in the [Philadelphia Business Journal](#).

Research Trial: Thrive Clinical Investigation Plan

Virtua Research periodically shares trials for your consideration. A brief synopsis of the eligibility criteria is listed below. Physician colleagues are vital to the success of the research program, even when they are not participating as investigators. Kintur Sanghvi, MD, FACC, FSCAI, chief of interventional cardiology, director of cardiovascular innovation, and medical director of the Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital catheterization laboratory, is the principal investigator for this trial.

The THRIVE study is a pivotal, prospective, multicenter, 2:1 randomized, double-blind, controlled study comparing **T**herapeutic IntraVascula**R** Ultrasound (TIVUSTM) **R**enal Denervation versus sham for the adjunctive treatment of hypertension.

The TIVUSTM system ablates the renal sympathetic nerves in the perivascular space using ultrasound energy. The study is intended to demonstrate the adjunctive effectiveness and safety of the TIVUS system in hypertensive subjects while subjects are maintained off of antihypertensive medications for a four-week wash-out period before RDN/sham procedure and two months after the procedure. Two months after the procedure, subjects with uncontrolled hypertension are put back on antihypertensive medication according to a medication escalation protocol. Unblinding will be performed at 6 months. Uncontrolled sham subjects can cross over to the RDN procedure at 6 months. The sham procedure will be minimally invasive to reduce the risk to subjects. All subjects treated with TIVUS will be followed for a maximum of 36 months post-procedure.

A brief synopsis of the eligibility criteria is listed below.

Inclusion Criteria:

- Documented history of hypertension
- Previously or currently prescribed antihypertensive therapy

Exclusion Criteria:

- The subject has been previously diagnosed with abnormal renal artery anatomy and/or renal anatomy, such as a single kidney, ectopic or horseshoe kidney, polycystic kidney disease, kidney tumors, or other findings precluding renal denervation therapy as detailed in the angiographic exclusion criteria

The remaining inclusion/exclusion criteria are extensive and can be shared by reaching out to our research team. If you have a patient who meets the criteria above, please contact the Virtua Research team at research@virtua.org and a research coordinator will review their eligibility with you.

**LAST CALL: Weight Management Grand Rounds,
June 25**

The Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine will host a virtual CME on “Approaching the Topic of Weight & Overcoming Barriers to Success in Obesity Treatment.” Bariatric psychologist Michelle Hunt, PsyD, will be the speaker for this educational event, which will take place virtually on Teams on **Wednesday, June 25** from 7 to 8 a.m.

“This is such an important opportunity for our clinicians across all service lines to hear from Dr. Hunt on what is unfortunately affecting too many of our patients,” said robotic bariatric surgeon Gaurav Sharma, MD, FACS, FASMBS, ABOM, director of obesity medicine at Virtua. “We all know the impact of obesity and the serious health issues that our community is facing. Dr. Hunt will empower us to humanly bring this topic to our patients and open the door for the many options available that can help save lives and certainly bring an improved quality of life.”

To join the Teams meeting on June 25, [click here](#). For more information, contact VirtuaClinician@Virtua.org.

Practicing Excellence: We Care Compassionately

This week, we continue focusing on the Guiding Principle *WE Care Compassionately*. [Click to view the tip of the week by track](#).

This focus on compassionate care was a central theme in a recent conversation between Practicing Excellence founder Stephen Beeson, MD, and our President and CEO Dennis Pullin, on Dr. Beeson’s [This Clinical Life](#) podcast. They discussed Dennis’ book, *Suited for Leadership*, where he shared lessons learned during his storied career. Dennis also emphasized the importance of creating communities of wellness by proactively reaching out to those who lack access to services. Furthermore, Dennis explained how the Practicing Excellence program empowers our colleagues to “create the best possible environment to take care of the community,” benefiting both our patients and our workforce.

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. Bilbao is very, very attentive, and her bedside manner is a 10. I felt like she really listened, and she cared about the things I had to say, the questions that I

had. She asked me more than once if I had any questions and was trying her best to clarify things that were unclear to me. She did a good job explaining everything very thoroughly, and I appreciate that. You don't get that all the time.” (**Michelle C. Bilbao, DO** – Gynecologic Oncology)

“I was very impressed with Dr. James Crawford. He was very knowledgeable, and explained everything to me in an understandable way. You can tell that he has passion for what he does, and that goes a long way. He is definitely a 5-star doctor, and I will be telling other people about him.” (**James Lee Crawford, MD** – Breast Surgery)

“Such a nice experience. I drove for almost an hour to see Dr. Kolnick. I’ve never been to Haddon Heights before, and the office staff was very nice, even told me how to get back home, since I live close to the Shore. It was a great experience. Dr. Kolnick is so receptive. He makes you feel comfortable. What’s been going on in my life lately has been stressful. He noticed my anxieties, and he was able to calm me by letting me know that he can relate. His voice, his tone—he has excellent bedside manners. I am going to remain with Dr. Kolnick. He’s worth the drive!” (**John Kolnik, DO** – Gastroenterology)

“Since day one at the Rowan - Virtua NeuroMusculoskeletal Institute, my health and my care have been their priority. Christopher Cox always takes his time to understand what I'm going through. I always feel very comfortable with my care team.” (**Christopher Cox, APN** – Addiction Medicine, Pain Medicine)

“Saw him as a new patient after hospital discharge for follow up. I will be a permanent patient from now on. He listened carefully to what I said and answered my questions completely.” (**Aaron Rubenstein, PA** – Pulmonology)

Risk Management Involves Everyone, Always

This is Health Care Risk Management Week, the annual campaign to raise awareness about the critical role of risk management and the work that our safety managers do to help all our colleagues become highly reliable in eliminating preventable safety events.

“Essentially, we all take on the role of risk management,” said Jennifer Khelil, EVP & chief clinical officer. “Every voice is paramount, needed, and welcomed. Thank you for your steadfast commitment.”

“Everyone plays a pivotal role in patient safety. We rely on people to report identified opportunities so that we can collectively create system solutions,” said Mitchell Gesinger, VP of quality, safety & risk at Virtua. “I want to take this

opportunity to give a special thank you to our risk safety managers and the positive impact that they make in improving patient safety. We couldn't do it without them."

This year's theme is "Stable, Strategic Solutions," and it highlights the central role that health care risk professionals play in protecting our organization. It also presents the opportunity to remind all of us to be mindful, to look for and report unsafe conditions when they are easy to fix before they pose a substantial risk to patient and colleague safety.

Women's Health Today Centers on Important Advancements

Our most recent issue of the *Today* series of physician education newsletters centers on advancements in women's care at Virtua. Mental health conditions are the leading complication of pregnancy and cause of maternal deaths, and they can seriously impact child welfare. [Women's Health Today](#) features Virtua's Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders (PMAD) program, the first and only such standalone initiative in South Jersey.

"Two or three weeks of baby blues can be a normal period of transition after birth, while hormones normalize. But too often, more-serious distress is written off," said Rachel Kramer, MD, FACOG, medical director of Virtua's PMAD program. "Stigma or shame may prevent expectant or recent mothers from sharing their mental health status with partners or professionals, and many mothers aren't screened."

Women's Health Today also features an article on bladder Botox® for urinary leakage and overactivity.

"Overactive bladder may be caused by weak pelvic muscles, increasing age, obesity, or an estrogen deficiency after menopause, as well as nerve damage due to a stroke, diabetes, Parkinson's disease, or multiple sclerosis," said Virtua urogynecologist Alexander Berger, MD, MPH, FACOG. "Botox injections, which help muscles to relax, were previously limited to the operating room and surgical centers. Virtua now offers this treatment in the office setting. Women can drive themselves to the appointment, get the injection, and go right back to their normal activities."

To learn more, click [Women's Health Today](#).

Marvin Samson's Generosity: A Positive Impact on Health Care Education

On May 28, Virtua Health welcomed nearly 200 guests—including trustees, clinical staff, religious and government leaders, and generous donors—for a special 75th Anniversary ground-blessing ceremony for what will be the Marvin Samon Pavilion at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital. Set to open in late 2027, this six-story patient care pavilion is named in recognition of philanthropist and long-time trustee Marvin Samson. The Marvin Samson Foundation has pledged \$5 million—the largest gift in Virtua's history—in support of education and workforce development programs.

"It's exciting to know that Mr. Samson has always been a champion for education," said Alan Pope, MD, VP, chief medical officer of Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital. "He and his family believe that through education we can lift up our entire community, creating opportunities that span generations. Their support of Virtua and our caregivers will empower countless individuals to pursue meaningful careers in health care. The demand for skilled professionals continues to grow. Thanks to the generosity of the Samson family, more people will have the chance to train, grow, and make an impact starting right here at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes."

Watch this [event video](#) to see highlights from the ceremony, including a moving ground-blessing prayer led by Bishop Joseph A. Williams, recently installed as the ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Camden.

Celebrate 75 Years of Care With Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Anniversary Apparel

To mark the significant milestone of Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital's 75th Anniversary, Virtua introduces an exclusive line of apparel and items. For decades, this hospital has been a cornerstone of compassionate care in our community, and we're excited to commemorate this rich history with custom-designed memorabilia.

To help celebrate this momentous occasion, colleagues now can purchase exclusive t-shirts, sweatshirts, tote bags, and more, all featuring the official 75th-anniversary logo. We invite you to show your pride and honor our shared legacy as we look forward to the future of Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital.

[Click to order your commemorative apparel today!](#)

More of Virtua in the News

Rowan-Virtua SOM to Receive State Funding for Disabilities Services

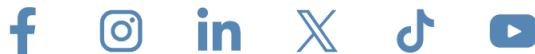
The Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine is among 14 new recipients of state grants designed to promote inclusive, healthy communities. The award will help the medical school better address the needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and those with substance use disorders, in partnership with the Rowan Virtua Integrated Special Needs Center. Read in [SNJ Today](#).

Children With Autism, ADHD Are More Vulnerable to Pollutants

Research led by T. Peter Stein, PhD, of the Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine, found that the bodies of such children detoxify BPA (an additive in plastics and other products) less efficiently than neurotypical peers, increasing the time their tissues are exposed to this chemical. Read in [Earth.com](#).

More Coverage of Students' Visit to Virtua SIM Center

Last month, we shared a TV story about local high-school students conducting simulated medical procedures at Virtua's high-tech training facility. A recent article provides further details about this unique educational opportunity, led by Virtua Reconstructive Orthopedics. Read in [Sun Newspapers](#).



Virtua Health

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