CREATES IN ACTION

Santa Casa Case Study

CHALLENGE

Dr. Francisco de Assis Castro Bomfim Jr. is a head and neck surgeon at Santa Casa de Fortaleza Hospital in Fortaleza, Brazil. He approached CREATES with a view to gain exposure to robotic surgery procedures specific to ENT. His interest was driven by the lack of such procedures in Brazil, primarily because there were no surgical robot training programs available at his hospital or any others.

However, he had been exposed to the technology at conferences, which had piqued his interest in the field. He was passionate about acquiring that knowledge and building a robotic surgery practice at his hospital. When he heard CREATES’ Medical Director, Dr. Umamaheshwar Duvvuri, speak at a conference, he knew he would not need to look beyond our Center for Advanced Robotics Training for this knowledge.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Dr. Bomfim spent two weeks here undergoing rigorous hands-on training that has been developed by UPMC’s clinical experts. UPMC is a pioneer in robotic surgery and has spent years enhancing healthcare delivery with robotic surgery. The training model has been perfected over the years and is based on best practices, ensuring that trainees enrolled in the program are well-equipped to apply this knowledge towards the continued success of their own practice and robotic surgery program.

- Shadowed Dr. Duvvuri for Head & Neck cases, and other clinicians on-site
- Developed expertise based around the nuances of robotic surgery
- Access to state-of-the-art medical facilities at UPMC
- Exposure to unique technical, procedural, and anatomical nuances in surgery
- Conducted surgical practice drills and simulations
- Provided with customized training components for long term goal to bring surgical robotic training to Santa Casa
- Launched a potential long term relationship with CREATES and UPMC
- Built a foundation to start a robotic surgery practice at Santa Casa de Fortaleza and across Brazil

There is no hospital in Brazil that makes this kind of training available to surgeons so my experience with robotic surgery was primarily based on what I read in books, papers and saw at conferences. The kind of hands-on training I received at CREATES was fantastic and has prepared me to take this knowledge and apply it in my country and to my patients.

Dr. Francisco de Assis Bomfim Jr., Head & Neck Surgeon