

Berea Living

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Section B

Paging Dr. Robot...

◆ New robot brings a world of health care technology to Berea

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DOWNTOWN — A visit to the emergency room at Saint Joseph-Berea could make you think you walked into an episode of the old Hanna-Barbera cartoon "The Jetsons," a futuristic portrayal of family-life where robots work and interact with humans, because one of the doctors at your bedside may just be a robot.

On May 7, the robot doctor, which has yet to be named, was on-site at Saint Joseph-Berea to meet the public, the nurses and the doctors it will be working with. But this isn't a robot like C-3PO from Star Wars; it doesn't think or operate on its own.

The robot, made by InTouch technologies, Inc., is controlled by a physician from anywhere, whether at home across town, in another state or even in a car, through a laptop computer via a secure wireless Internet system. The laptop is specially made to accom-

pany the robot; it has a joystick like a video game controller so the doctor can maneuver the robot around the hospital.

The robot has a video-screen head, which can tilt and pivot around and zoom so the physician can see the surroundings and easily maneuver it around a patient's bed, the

room or the hallways of the hospital. It has versatile movements in any direction; forward, backward, side to side, and can turn around. Two-way video cameras and microphones serve as the eyes and ears for the doctor.

"The robot can get in without being in anyone's way," said Marie Gonzales, InTouch Health regional accounts manager and the face of the robot for the day.

Because most families come to visitation hours in the evening, but doctors do most of their rounds in the morning or afternoon, it can be hard for the family to even meet the doctor face to face, said Pat Patton, director of nursing at Saint Joseph-Berea. The robot helps by allowing the doctor to be there, without really being there, to answer any questions the family may have about their loved one's care.

If a patient needs specific care from a specialist that isn't at the hospital, the staff can request a consult from a specialist at another Saint Joseph hospital. The robot is then used as a tool for that specialist to actually see the patient and help with that patient's care easier, instead of playing 100 questions over the telephone, Patton said. "It's exciting for us," Patton said. The robot comes equipped with a



Above, R.N. Emily Shaw and Cherry Ruffing, a respiratory therapy technician, speak with Marie Gonzales using the InTouch Health Technologies robot at St. Joseph Berea during a recent demonstration.

At right, the robot, which stands about 5-feet-tall, is capable of two-way communication, allowing a doctor in one location to examine and possibly diagnose a patient in another. Gonzales was speaking to the Berea staff from a hotel room in Virginia during the demo.

Anna Homa photos



stethoscope mounted to the body so the doctor can hear breathing and heart sounds. A phone is located on the back for times when the robot doctor may need to have a private conversation with the nurse or another doctor, Patton said.

The doctor controlling the robot has the ability to capture an image of the patient and display it on the screen face. A tool on the laptop allows the doctor to point to or outline anything on the image that warrants a closer look. The image is so clear the robot doc-

tor can observe vital sign monitors, examine X-ray light boards and fluid bags, and zoom in to read a chart or examine a patient's wound, according to the InTouch Technologies Web site.

So far, the robot hasn't seen any patients at the hospital because the staff is still getting used to learning how to work with and interact with the robot, Patton said. It will be June before the robot will actually get to participate in the health care of its first patient.

"It's important for the staff to get introduced

and used to it," Patton said.

Saint Joseph hospitals have been given a grant through the CHI research foundation to purchase one robot for each of the seven hospitals in the state. These hospitals are the trial run to see how effective the robot doctors are. If they are successful they can look into getting the robots into other hospitals, Patton said.

"In the Saint Joseph system we have good doctors, now we get to add to the team," Patton said.

Locals participate in ECU's Undergraduate Presentation Showcase

Twelve Madison County residents were among 70 Eastern Kentucky University students who participated in the seventh annual Undergraduate Presentation Showcase, featuring service-learning, discovery research and creative arts presentations that demonstrate collaboration between student and professor.

Berea resident Jenny Holly presented "EKU's Sullivan Hall" in collaboration with faculty member Dr. Gay Sweely; and Christina Przybys, also of Berea, presented "EKU's Coates Building," in collaboration with Sweely.

Richmond residents who participated were: Jeremiah R. Alexander, with Marcia Pierce and Stephen C. Richter, "Modernizing the Science Classroom: An Introduction to RNA Interference;" Lindsay Bonds, with Alice Jones and Reagan Weaver, "Right Fork Beaver Creek Monitoring Project: Undergraduate Research Experiences in an Applied Setting;" William Broach, with Marcia Pierce, "Antimicrobial Resistance in Clinical Isolates of Streptococcus Pyogenes;" Felicia Hall, with Patrick Costello and Robert C. Youngquist, "Pad B Liquid Hydrogen Storage Tank;" Jason Lee, with Sweely, "Two Paintings Replicating Turner's Monumental Painterly Techniques;" Kati-beth Lybrand, with Christopher W. Kulp, "Using Nonlinear Time Series Analysis to Demonstrate Relationships Between Musical Instruments;" Stephanie McDaniel, with Catherine Clement, "Personal Space in Relation to Similarity to Others;" Amanda True, with Preston Elrod, "Preliminary Analysis of Teens' Perceptions of Community Life in Berea: Early Steps in the Development of a Viable Youth Policy;" Litany Webster, with Jones, "Middle and High-School Perspectives on a Proposed Madison County Bikeway Plan;" and Colleen Yarberry, with Julia B. Robinson, "Attention Regulation and Parent-Child Interactions in Children with Hearing Impairments."

At the showcase, held each April, undergraduate students at ECU have the opportunity to share their work, in a conference-type atmosphere, with other students, faculty, administrators, relatives and friends. Posters displaying projects such as original artwork, short stories and poems, and research summaries fill Walnut Hall during Scholars' Weekend.

"This new technology will allow patients in our smaller communities to seek specialty care closer to home, without the need to travel long distances. Through the use of the robots, we can bring the specialist to them."

Gene Woods, CEO, Saint Joseph Health System

◆ Citizen Cookin' Frozen Yogurt Pie

- 1 tub (8 oz.) COOL WHIP Whipped Topping, thawed
- 2 containers (6 oz. each) raspberry low-fat yogurt
- 1 HONEY MAID Graham Pie Crust (6 oz.)
- 1-1/4 cups fresh raspberries



ADD whipped topping to yogurt in medium bowl; stir with wire whisk until well blended. Spoon into crust. FREEZE 4 hours or until firm. Remove from freezer 15 min. before serving; let stand at room temperature to soften slightly. TOP with raspberries just before serving. Store leftovers in freezer.

◆ Citizen Sudoku

The sudoku grid consists of 81 squares in a 9-by-9 grid. To solve the sudoku, each square in the grid must contain a number between one and nine, with the following conditions: Each row of nine cells must contain each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once and only once; each column of nine cells must contain each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once; each of the nine 3-by-3 boxes of nine cells must contain each of the numbers from 1 to 9 once and only once.

	8	2	4		5			
			9		4			
6	1		5					9
	4			9				3
3		7		6		8		5
1				2			4	
4					3		9	7
		1			9			
		9			1	2	5	

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