



## **Robot on Patient Rounds at Sinai Hospital of Baltimore**

### **For Immediate Release**

Sinai Hospital of Baltimore welcomes its newest employee, Bari, a mobile robot, which allows physicians to interact with patients on demand and from remote locations. The RP-7 robot, developed by InTouch Health, a California-based company, permits doctors to virtually consult with patients, family members and hospital staff at a moment's notice.

“One of the crucial keys of delivering the high quality care patients have come to expect at Sinai is communication,” said Neil M. Meltzer, president and COO, Sinai Hospital. “The technology used in the robot offers both physicians and patients increased access to each other beyond traditional in-room visits.”

The 5-foot, 5-inch robot, looks similar to “Rosie the Robot from the Jetsons,” with a flat-screen computer monitor face. To give the robot a more personal look when makes rounds, the doctor's face is displayed live on the screen. The physician guides the robot with a joystick from a computerized ControlStation® from a designated remote location often located in a home or office. With on-board two-way cameras, microphones and wireless technology, the physician is also able to review charts, current lab work and X-ray results without physically being in the hospital.

“New technology constantly allows us to increase the quality of care we provide to our patients,” said Alex Gandsas, M.D., head of the Division of Bariatric and Minimally Invasive Surgery. “The RP-7 gives us the opportunity to continue to communicate with patients during off hours. At a certain point, patients sometimes can even forget there's a machine in front of them, and they are able to interact with you on an individual, intimate level.”

Sinai launched the mobile robot initiative with one robot in the Department of Bariatric Surgery under the leadership of Gandsas, who presented the idea after researching the technology as a safety measure and closer way to monitor patients following weight-loss surgery. Additional robots maybe added in other departments in the future.

Sinai Hospital of Baltimore is a member of LifeBridge Health, a regional health organization, which includes Northwest Hospital Center, Levindale Hebrew Geriatric Center and Hospital, Jewish Convalescent & Nursing Home, and related subsidiaries and affiliates.

InTouch Technologies, Inc. (d.b.a. InTouch Health®) is a privately held company based in Santa Barbara, CA. The company is pioneering remote presence technology for hospital providers. Through a proprietary communications and mobile robotic platform, the RP-7 Remote Presence Robotic System, doctors are able to consult with hospital-based patients and staff more easily and frequently. The InTouch Health solution leverages the time and expertise of healthcare professionals across multiple care facilities, improving the efficiency and effectiveness of care delivery.

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