

# CARING TOGETHER

Fall 2023 Edition

## What's Inside?

Da Vinci Xi Surgical Robot Debuts at Shore  
page 1 & 2



Shaping Future Physicians  
page 3 & 4



Stainton Society Members  
page 5



Lightkeeper's Society Members  
page 6



*Your Gifts in Action!*

## Shore Embraces Cutting-Edge Technology with the da Vinci Xi Surgical Robot

At 7:30 a.m. on October 17, 2023, general surgeon Dr. James Tayoun, Jacqueline Evenson, CNOR, RNFA, and the OR team at Shore Medical Center began prepping for the day's first surgery, an inguinal hernia repair. It's a procedure the team has done many times before, but this one was extra special – it was the first surgery at Shore using the new da Vinci Xi surgical robot, the most advanced surgical robot on the market.

Two years ago, Shore leadership recognized that it was time to bring in robotic surgery to better serve the community. The entire program costs approximately \$2.5-million, a major investment made possible with donor support, but it is one that Dr. Leonard Galler, Clinical and Administrative

Chairman of the Department of Surgery, knows will pay off.

“The da Vinci Xi offers enhanced visualization for our surgeons, smaller incisions, expedited recovery and pain mitigation for patients and, subsequently, a diminished need for narcotics. The robot's precision and dexterity also enable us to better conduct surgery in complex areas, such as the lower abdomen, reducing the potential for surgical trauma and infection.”

*Photo: Shore's surgical leadership team poses with the new da Vinci Xi surgical robot. Pictured, left to right, is Ronnie Vrabel, RN, BSN, Assistant Manager of the Operating Room; Jacqueline Evenson, CNOR, RNFA, Surgical Clinical Supervisor, OR & Robotics; Dr. Leonard Galler, Clinical and Administrative Chairman of the Department of Surgery; and Karen Burns, RN, BSN, CNOR, Manager Operating Room & Sterile Processing Department.*

**(continued inside)**

## A Cause to Celebrate Gala Raises Nearly \$400k

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our donors, sponsors, and gala attendees for helping us raise nearly \$400,000 that will help fund new equipment, cutting-edge technology, and vital patient care initiatives at Shore Medical Center. Congratulations to Dr. Angelo Sparagna, our 2023 Art Ford, III, Esq. Award recipient, presented at this year's gala. His exceptional leadership has greatly impacted Shore Physicians Group and our community's healthcare.



(continued from page 1)



*Shore Physicians Group General Surgeon Dr. John Millili demonstrates the capabilities of the da Vinci Xi surgical robot to SPG physicians and staff, while Jacqueline Evenson, CNOR, RNFA, Surgical Clinical Supervisor of OR & Robotics looks on.*

Dr. Galler added, “The da Vinci Xi will also expand the types of surgery we can now offer. In the short term, that includes radical prostatectomies, soft tissue surgeries on kidneys and ureters, and gynecological cancer surgery. We’re also looking to expand colorectal surgery in the future.”

### *How it Works*

The da Vinci Xi surgical robot operates in a well-defined process. In the set-up phase, surgical instruments are attached to the robot’s arms near the patient. Once prepared, the surgeon takes control at the console, utilizing a 3DHD camera to view the surgical area, and the surgeon’s expertise and hands control the robot’s arms, with greater efficiency and dexterity.

Dr. Galler said, “The robot doesn’t replace the surgeon; it is an extension of the surgeon that provides even better results. It’s like moving from a gas car to an electric car; there are differences, but the driving rules still follow.”

### *Remarkable Visualization*

Eighteen months ago, when Jacqueline Evenson, CNOR, RNFA, learned of Shore’s plan to introduce robotic surgery, she took the lead in learning everything about the da Vinci Xi. In August, she was appointed Clinical Supervisor of the OR and Robotics Program, responsible for spearheading the robot’s integration into the surgical workflow.

“The robot’s incredible visualization is what impressed me the most. When you look at the Lincoln Memorial on the back of the penny with the naked eye, you only see the building. But when you look at it using the da Vinci Xi surgical robot, you can actually see the statue of Abraham Lincoln inside! That’s how powerful the robot’s visualization is.”

Evenson has been an OR nurse at Shore since 1999 and has been on the front lines of surgery as they transitioned from open surgery to laparoscopic surgery and now robotics. She is extremely proud of the surgical program Shore has built with help from donors.

“I’ll never forget the awe I felt when the Surgical Pavilion officially opened in 2011, and now I have that same feeling all over again with the robot.”

Evenson shared that while the da Vinci Xi is one of the biggest technological advancements in Shore’s surgical program over the past decade, it’s far from the only one.

“Every two months, our OR team conducts a value analysis to determine what technology on the market could enhance patient care and outcomes, and what equipment currently needs to be replaced. This process has led to other recent advancements in surgery at Shore, including Brain Lab, an MRI-guided system for precise spinal surgery, and the powerful MOSES laser technology for kidney stones.”

### *Your Support is Key to Surgical Growth*

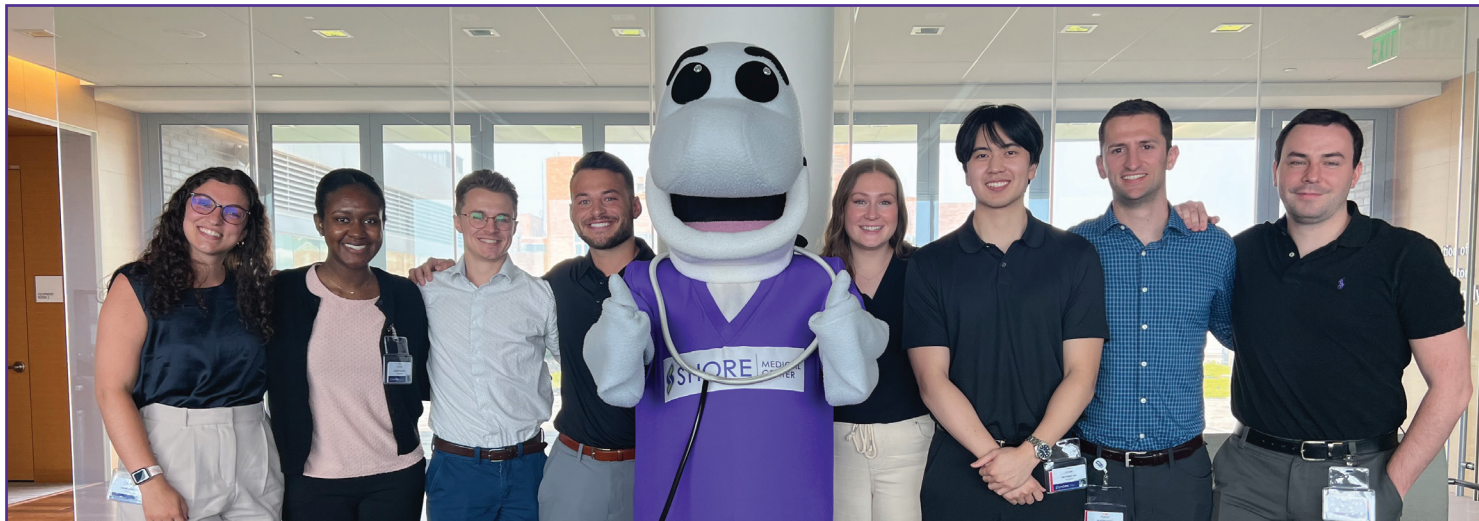
On October 26, the OR team at Shore affectionately and officially named the da Vinci Xi “Lenny” in honor of Dr. Leonard Galler and his leadership and vision that helped grow Shore’s surgical program into what it is today.

Dr. Galler stated, “My job is to build Shore’s ability in surgery, to make us better, safer and always ready to care for our patients. This project is not just me,” Dr. Galler adds. “It is the collaborative efforts of all our surgical teams, surgeons, our Board of Directors and Senior Leadership, and of course, our generous donors. I’d love to see our robotics program grow, and we need continued donor support for that to happen. And who knows – perhaps the next robot will be named after one of our esteemed donors.”

## Leave a Legacy at Shore Medical Center with a Planned Gift

Help Shore meet the healthcare needs of current and future generations!

Learn more at [www.GivetoShore.org](http://www.GivetoShore.org) or call Mary McGuckin at 609-653-4657.



### *Shaping Future Physicians:*

## Shore Begins a New Chapter with PCOM Students

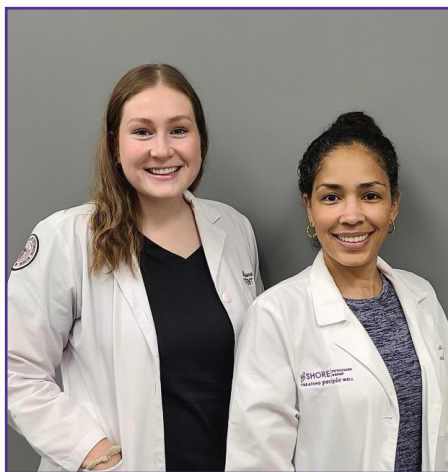
Donors like you have always been instrumental in helping Shore provide patients with the highest quality healthcare, close to home. But now there's another group of people you're helping with your gifts – future physicians!

This year, Shore Medical Center officially became a Core Clinical Campus site for Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM), and in July, we welcomed our first cohort of eight third-year medical students. They each are completing 10 four-week rotations over the course of the year, learning from Shore physicians in specialties such as surgery, cardiology, pediatrics, primary care and more. Thanks to your ongoing support, we have been able to build a health system that has the resources and expertise to provide third-year medical students with an exceptional experience.

Aileen McGuigan, Director of Clinical Education at PCOM, explains what they look for in Core Clinical Campus

sites. “It’s not just about sending a student anywhere that has the required specialties our students need; it’s about really ensuring they will get to work with physicians who truly model and embody what it means to be a caring and compassionate physician. We see that in the Shore network, and have heard nothing but good things from our students.”

### *Maura Powell: Meaningful Connections*



Maura Powell grew up in Scranton, PA, but this area holds a special place in her heart. Her aunt was a Shore ER nurse, and she vacationed in Ocean City with her family every summer, even getting engaged there.

“On vacation, I loved to stay up late with my aunt after she got home from work so she could tell me stories from the ER. I was even a Shore patient when I got a gash in my leg from a bike accident. My aunt triaged me and Dr. Grim did my stitches. It’s really cool to train here now and see things come full circle.”

Powell says that she has learned so much already from Shore physicians, especially Dr. Alex Buford, a primary care physician with Shore Physicians Group’s Mays Landing office, pictured at right with Powell.

“I really admire Dr. Buford; she’s an excellent physician. She efficiently covered a wide range of concerns during patient visits, not just the

primary reason for their visit. She made personal connections with patients and addressed broader life issues affecting their health. It's evident that these connections make patients more comfortable and willing to discuss various health-related issues. She encouraged my growth as a young female physician."

### *Hunter Smith: A Front-Row Seat in Surgery*



Hunter Smith came into his third year with a strong interest in orthopedic surgery, so he was glad to be placed at Shore because he knew he'd get an immersive experience in the field.

"In larger hospitals, you're often competing for rotation spots with many other students. But at Shore, not only will I get four weeks in orthopedics, I'll be right there watching and learning from the attending physician."

Hunter recently completed a general surgery rotation, but he was also invited to scrub in with vascular and neurosurgery as well. Smith also witnessed the first-ever robotic-assisted surgery at Shore.

"At Shore, we have direct access to attending surgeons who generously impart their knowledge and wisdom. We're not only learning how to perform surgeries but also the 'why' behind them. Shore has a high surgical volume, but I've had the opportunity to scrub into every case, assist in closures, and gain invaluable hands-on experience."

### *Jacob Light: Building Connections & Confidence in Psychiatry*



Jacob Light said that psychiatry has been a consistent interest of his since he began medical school, so he was excited for his psychiatry rotation at Shore with Legacy Treatment Services, which provides inpatient psychiatric consults.

"My rotation was a balance of seeing patients on my own as well as collaborating with Legacy providers both in person and virtually. Dr. Jenys Allende and Dr. Susan Zink both set a terrific example of how to connect with a patient to remove barriers and discuss difficult, personal subjects."

Light continued, "In psychiatry, the initial encounter can at times be

awkward and hard to initiate. Simple gestures such as a reassuring hand hold, consistent eye contact, and the usage of thoughtful, patient-friendly language helped the providers to navigate difficult conversations and instill confidence and comfort in each patient. I employed these strategies when I consulted a patient on my own for the first time. He was admitted for medical reasons, but his course was impacted by psychiatric complications. While I made the correct diagnosis, it was my connection with the patient that sticks with me the most. He told me that the time he spent speaking openly and honestly with me was the most meaningful part of his hospital stay. I value the technical information I learned during the rotation, and my experience with him will inform the way I care for patients throughout my career by serving as a reminder to always prioritize understanding the goals and motivations of each patient."

### *A Look to the Future*

With help from our generous donors, Shore has a wonderful hospital and facility, along with a network of highly experienced and skilled physicians who are taking these students under their wings. Ultimately, our goal is to help develop future doctors, and hopefully when they are ready to begin their careers as physicians, they'll consider coming back to our great community. We look forward to many more years of productive collaboration with PCOM in shaping the future of healthcare, one student at a time. ✨

*Photo: On June 29, Shore welcomed eight third year medical students from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, pictured left to right with our ambassador, Fin the Dolphin: Gianna Martini, Alayna Nelson, Jacob Light, Gino Pezzone, Maura Powell, Matthew Lee, Hunter Smith and Evan Polly.*

# LIGHTKEEPER'S SOCIETY MEMBERS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the following members of Shore Medical Center's Lightkeeper's Society, which recognizes donors who annually contribute \$5,000 or more to Shore Medical Center to help further advance the care of our patients. Those marked with an asterisk (\*) are also members of the DiOrio Society, which recognizes those who have made a planned gift to Shore Medical Center. We thank these individuals and families for their investment in future generations.

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Stainton Society members give between \$500 and \$4,999 to Shore Medical Center annually, and help provide ongoing philanthropic support for our hospital's patient care initiatives. If you would like to join the Stainton Society, please visit [www.GivetoShore.org](http://www.GivetoShore.org) or contact Mary McGuckin at 609-653-3800.

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