

Foundation adds 'ROSA Robot' to assist Ojai's hospital's team of surgeons

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Ojai, meet Rosa.

Not Rosie the robot of the Jetsons, wearing an apron and vacuuming.

This is "Rosa Robot" in scrubs, helping doctors replace knees.

Ojai Valley Community Hospital is the first hospital in the state to acquire ROSA Total Knee Replacement System. The new technology comes to Ojai thanks to the nonprofit Ojai Valley Community Foundation, which raised \$600,000 for it.

Tuesday was Rosa's coming-out party and celebration of the relaunch of Ojai Valley Community Hospital's Surgical Department.

Dr. Thomas Golden arrived at the afternoon reception after checking on a patient whose knee he replaced earlier in the day in what he described as a "flawless" surgery, with the help of a team including Dr. Petros Frousiakis.

That surgery was done the old-fashioned way, *sans* robot. It was noted at the reception as the hospital relaunches its Surgical Department. The first ROSA-assisted knee surgery at the local hospital is scheduled in a couple of weeks, Golden said.

The technology provided by the ROSA system "allows us to do what we do, but do it even better," Golden said.

ROSA comes with a robotic arm controlled by surgeons using computer and software technology to control surgical instruments with enhanced precision and flexibility.

"This is an exciting time," said Steve Frank, president of the Hospital Foundation, speaking to a crowd assembled at the hospital entrance

to celebrate the relaunch of the hospital's Surgical Department. "This could not happen without a lot of people's effort. ... We are providing something to the hospital that will really make a long-term difference. I want to thank Dr. Golden and his team for what they are doing for orthopedics in the valley."

Dr. Carl Constantine said, "I am really excited about the resurgence of our Surgical Department."

Haady Lashkari, the hospital's chief administrative officer, said this is a "really exciting time for the valley" to have the Surgical Department relaunch and the future opening of the hospital's Continuing Care Center.

"I am honored to have this opportunity in Ojai, especially with the foundation," Golden said. "I want to thank the foundation for buying this for our hospital and our community."

"We are really proud of this," said Phil Caruthers, a member of the Ojai Valley Community Hospital Foundation Guild, whose more than 200 members generously donate to, and raise money for, the local hospital.

"It's a wonderful addition," said Guild member Don Anderson.

"I think it's a brave and wonderful step forward," said retired anesthesiologist Dr. Leland Sprague of Ojai.

He said the new technology will enable doctors "to do things that were not possible before."

"It is the way medicine is going," Sprague said, adding he would like to be around in 50 years "to see what is happening."



Photo by Christopher Charles

Dr. Thomas Golden of Ojai demonstrates how surgeons control the robotic arm to assist in knee surgeries during Tuesday's reception at Ojai Valley Community Hospital.



Photo by Christopher Charles

From left, Phil Caruthers, Linda Law, Tiarzha Taylor, Tim Wolfe, Steve Frank (holding check), Jeff Loebel, Teresa Smith, Dr. Jim Halverson, Dr. Dan Sommer, Gary Farr, Haady Lashkari, Michelle Henson celebrate the \$600,000 donation from the OVCH Foundation during the Ojai Valley Hospital Surgical Department relaunch celebration at the hospital Tuesday.