

## ABHI Announces Creation of Robotic-Assisted Surgery Member Group

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The Association of British HealthTech Industries (ABHI) has formed a Robotic-Assisted Surgery member group to bring together HealthTech companies, the clinical community and other relevant organisations who have a strong interest in furthering the development of surgical robotic systems and their use in surgery.

Surgical robotics has evolved over recent years to become established clinical practice in several surgical fields and has inspired the development of an ever-increasing number of technology platforms. Chaired by Andrew Bonser, Director of Government Affairs, Intuitive Surgical UK & Ireland, ABHI's RAS group is currently comprised of representatives from CMR Surgical, Intuitive Surgical, Johnson & Johnson, Medtronic, Smith & Nephew, Stryker and Zimmer Biomet. It will be the key industry community to engage a varied network on the development and successful adoption of this technology and surgical technique.

Surgical robotic systems are designed to allow surgeons and doctors to perform many types of complex procedures with greater accuracy and reduce variability in surgical outcomes. This can be achieved through a combination of vision and digital technologies, precision instrumentation and ergonomic design characteristics to assist the surgeon and clinical Teams. Shorter hospital stay, lower complication rates and a quicker return to normal activity are known benefits of robotic-assisted surgery.

The Group plans to work with NHS partners, clinical colleges, academic centres and other relevant groups to support the safe and effective growth in the use of surgical robotic systems.

Nishan Sunthares, ABHI's Chief Operating Officer and lead on robotic-assisted surgery said "I am delighted that ABHI has convened its robotic-assisted surgery group. The development of robotic surgery platforms continues apace, and is poised for strong adoption. As with any new health technology, we must ensure that the surgical application of this technology is safe, sustainable and delivers high quality patient outcomes and productivity benefits to health systems. We look forward to working with clinical colleagues, academic centres and others to this end."

For further detail relating to this announcement, please write to [nishan.sunthares@abhi.org.uk](mailto:nishan.sunthares@abhi.org.uk)

### **About ABHI**

ABHI is the UK's leading industry association for health technology (HealthTech).

ABHI supports the HealthTech community to save and enhance lives. Members, including both multinationals and small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), supply products from syringes and wound dressings to surgical robots and digitally enhanced technologies. We represent the industry to stakeholders, such as the government, NHS and regulators. HealthTech plays a key role in supporting delivery of healthcare and is a significant contributor to the UK's economic growth. HealthTech is now the largest employer in the broader Life Sciences sector, employing 131,800 people in 4,060 companies, with a combined turnover of £25.6bn. The industry has enjoyed growth of around 5% in recent years. ABHI's 300 members account for approximately 80% of the sector by value.

