CART: Thoracic Surgery

The UPMC Center for Advanced Robotics Training (CART) provides surgical teams with technical and contextual resources to initiate and optimize complex robotic surgery programs. The center provides participating surgeons and support staff with expertise through individualized pathways to proficiency, and remains engaged in maintaining trainees' skills through continuous quality assessment. This personalized approach supports reduced learning curves and high-quality, cost-efficient outcomes.

UPMC LIFE CHANGING MEDICINE

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CENTER FOR ADVANCED ROBOTICS TRAINING

Thoracic Surgery

UPMC LIFE CHANGING MEDICINE

Training Program Overview

The Center for Advanced Robotics Training (CART) program in thoracic surgery offers an in-depth introduction to advanced pulmonary, mediastinal, and esophageal procedures, including lobectomy, thymectomy, and esophagectomy. Instructed by leaders in the field of minimally invasive thoracic surgery, the program features individualized didactic and hands-on experience, including overview of the operating suite setup, review of equipment and instruments, and step-by-step guidance in performing critical aspects of these complex procedures through simulation and cadaver work. The course offerings are highly customizable to address the specific procedural interest, skill level, and needs of each participant.

Sample Agenda

Day 1	
7:00 AM	Introduction to CART/Breakfast
8:00 AM	Observation of Live Surgery
12:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM	Simulation Lab Sessions
5:00 PM	Review of Curriculum Pathway and Practical Skills Session Goals
7:00 PM	Working Dinner with Step-by-Step Technical Video Presentation
9:00 PM	Adjourn

Day 2	
7:00 AM	Breakfast
8:00 AM	Robotic Practical Skills Cadaver Lab #1
12:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM	Simulation Lab Session
3:00 PM	Robotic Practical Skills Cadaver Lab #2
5:00 PM	Adjourn

Experience

The UPMC Robotic Thoracic Surgery program under the direction of Dr. Inderpal S. Sarkaria and Dr. James D. Luketich is a highly accomplished surgical program, and is part of the UPMC Division of Thoracic Surgery. This division, world-renowned for its experience in minimally invasive thoracic procedures, was among the first to investigate the use of surgical robotics in thoracic surgery.

UPMC's thoracic surgeons are leaders and innovators in establishing robotic approaches to complex thoracic procedures. They have one of the largest international experiences in robotic-assisted minimally invasive esophagectomy (RAMIE) and other robot-assisted thoracic procedures. The clinicians in this program have dedicated significant resources to developing a comprehensive, proficiency-based curriculum to efficiently and effectively master advanced robotic skills and apply them to the field of thoracic surgery.

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