

CART: Surgical Oncology

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 Center for Advanced Robotics Training

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CENTER FOR ADVANCED ROBOTICS TRAINING

Surgical Oncology



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Training Program Overview

The Center for Advanced Robotics Training (CART) program led by UPMC surgical oncologists serves as an introduction to the advanced robotic curriculum, exposing participants to the skill sets necessary to safely perform advanced robotic pancreatic resections. Course content features an overview of the operating suite setup, review of the robotic equipment and surgical tools, and gradual, step-by-step guidance in performing robot-assisted pancreatic resections.

Sample Agenda

Day 1	
7:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Live Surgery Observation <i>(with a working lunch)</i>
3:00 – 3:15 PM	Introduction to CART
3:15 – 4:00 PM	Review of Learning Curve for Whipple and Distal Pancreatectomy
4:15 – 5:00 PM	Review of Curriculum Pathway and Practical Skills Session Goals
7:00 – 9:00 PM	Working Dinner with Video Presentation Step-by-Step Review of Procedure with Emphasis on Critical Skills
9:00 PM	Adjourn

Day 2	
7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Arrival and Breakfast
8:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Practical Session Dry Lab
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Lectures
11:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Cadaver Lab
4:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Final Debrief and Wrap Up

Experience

The UPMC Robotic Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgery (HPB) program under the direction of Dr. David Bartlett and Dr. Herbert Zeh is a highly accomplished surgical program. This team has performed over 600 major pancreatic and liver resections, including nearly 300 pancreaticoduodenectomies and more than 100 robotic liver resections.

Together, UPMC surgical oncologists have published a number of highly-cited articles in the field of robotic surgery. Over the last several years, 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 surgical oncology.

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