



**Massachusetts General Hospital**  
Founding Member, Mass General Brigham

# *My Surgeon Wants a Robot to Operate on me?!*

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HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL  
TEACHING HOSPITAL

# Disclosures

- None relevant to talk



*\*Patient gets wheeled into robot OR\**

Me: Hi Mr. or Mrs. So and So, my name is Mike, I am a surgical Physician Assistant, I specialize in robotic surgery and I am going to be assisting Dr. So and So today.

Patient: Hello. Is this the robot?

Me: Yes – we get everything hooked up, we go have coffee, we come back, and surgery is over.

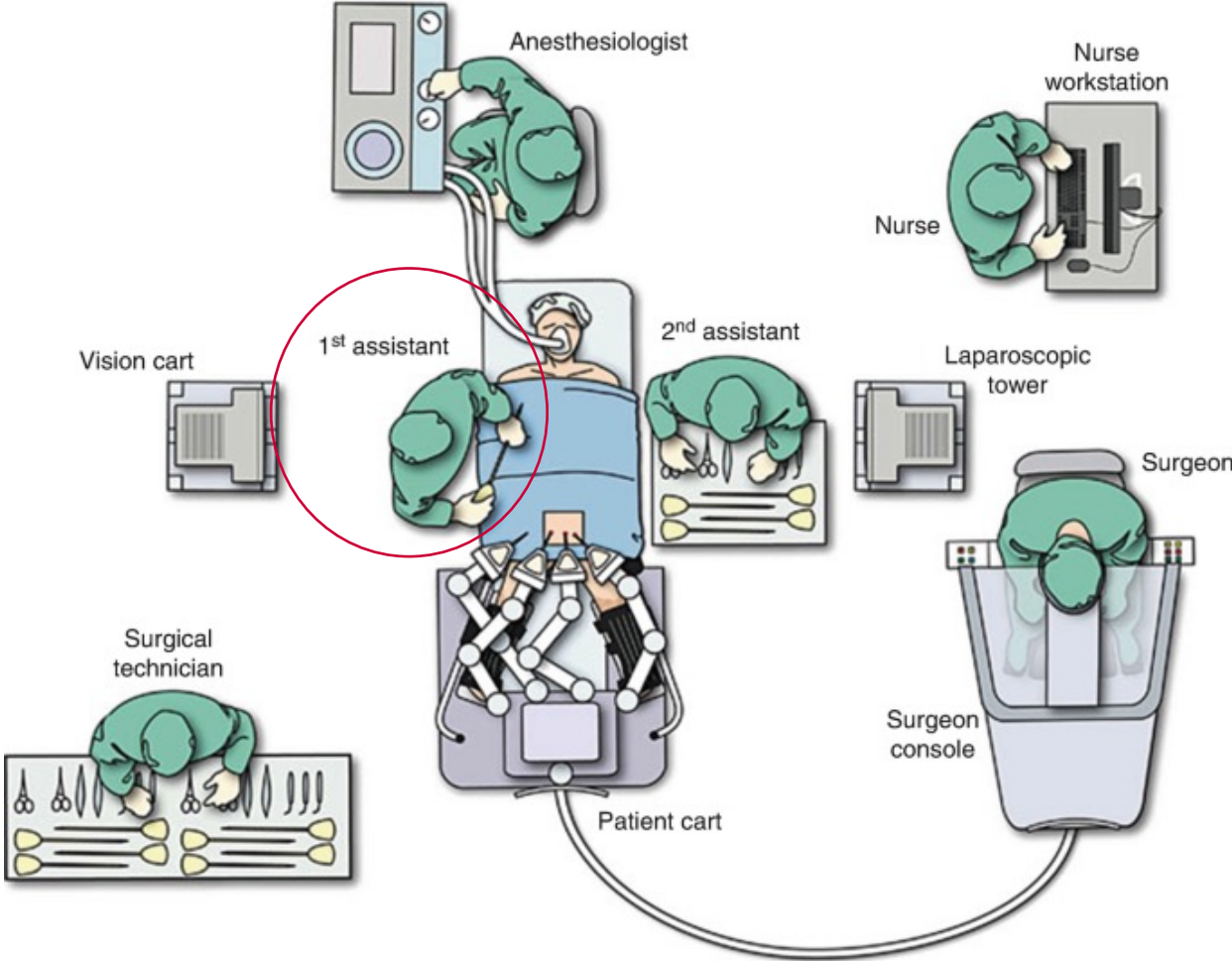
Patient: 🤔

Me: No, I kid. Dr. So and So sits right there *\*points to surgeon console\** and controls everything from there. I am scrubbed in with you and the robot *\*points to patient cart\** and I am with you for the entirety of the operation.

Patient: 🤩



# Robot OR Set-Up





# Robot OR Set-Up



# NCCPA April 2021 Newsletter

## Certified PAs Help Provide the Human Touch to Robotic Surgery



Members of the robotic surgery PA service at Massachusetts General Hospital from left to right: Sarina Hall, PA-C; Mike Llewellyn, PA-C; Jessica Grasso, PA-C; Allison Ching, PA-C.



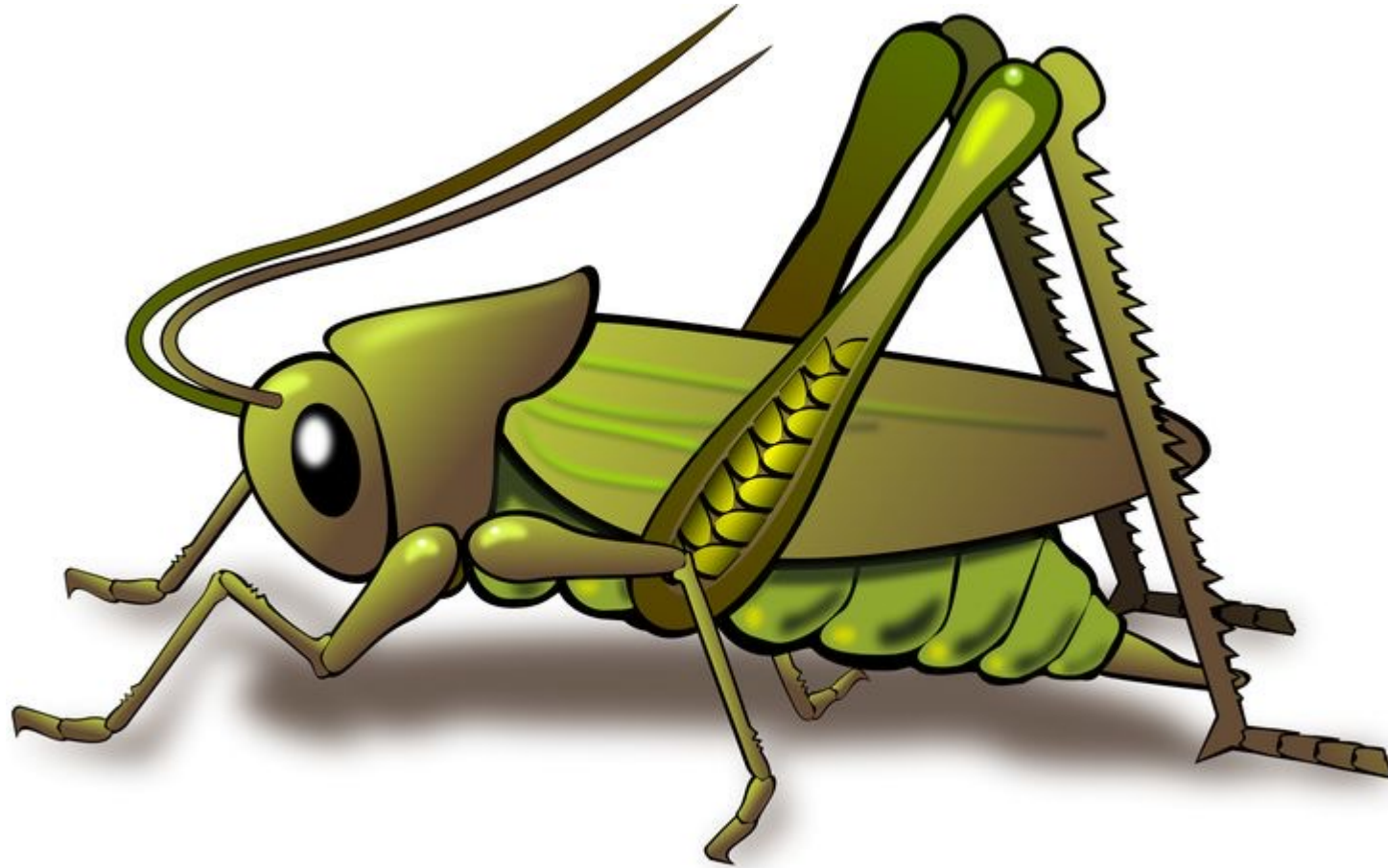
# Advantages of the Robotic Surgery PA Model

- We are trained under the allopathic medicine and surgery model
- We are required to do surgical rotations during the clinical portion of school
- We are residency trained in surgery in some circumstances
- We have the unique ability to specialize in niche fields
- We carry our own medical licensure and malpractice coverage
- We understand the implications of surgery for the patient
- We are there as an extension of the surgeons (robotic) hands
- We understand the cases to expertly assist them
- We can save a patients life if the circumstances require
- We are billable as assistants in surgery
  - Right now at MGH, our PA program is cost neutral
    - Goal – profitable





# Disadvantages of the Robotic Surgery PA Model





# Vetted Training



## **Robotic Surgical Physician Assistant – Focused Professional Practice Evaluation (FPPE)**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DEPT: \_\_\_\_\_ Supervising PA: \_\_\_\_\_

### Core Privileges Statement

Robotic Surgery PAs functioning in this capacity routinely first assist in surgery including being the sole provider scrubbed in at the bedside during robotic surgery cases while primary surgeon is at console. Responsibilities also include but are not limited to: using all necessary surgical instruments and equipment (i.e. robot and related tools) in an OR case, performing retraction, making surgical incisions, opening/closing surgical sites and suturing skin, subcutaneous tissues, fascia, and muscle, tissue handling, tying and cutting sutures, stapling, cauterizing, aspirating, hemostasis, stapling major blood vessels and other anatomic structures, and all other assistance as requested and/or delegated by the supervising surgeon.

Surgical assisting is a core component of all Physician Assistant Education.

In addition to attending an industry-sponsored certificate program for advanced robotic first-assistance, MGH robotic surgery Physician Assistants will undergo an intensive training and mentorship program as outlined below. The final decision on whether a provider is ready to act as the solo practitioner at the bedside is at the discretion of the supervising surgeon as well as the supervising Physician Assistant. A fully trained Robotic Surgery PA at MGH will have no less than:

- Training session in a simulated environment
- 15 cases per specialty; observed, proctored, first-assisted (75 cases total)

Physician Assistant: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervising PA: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## **Robotic Surgical Physician Assistant - Ongoing Professional Practice Evaluation (OPPE)**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DEPT: \_\_\_\_\_ Supervising PA: \_\_\_\_\_

### Definition

Ongoing Professional Practice Evaluation (OPPE) is incremental data collected to assess a practitioner's clinical and skill competence, as well as professional behavior. Through this process, our Robotic Surgery Physician Assistants regularly receive feedback for potential improvement or confirmation of achievement related to the effectiveness of their professional practice specific to their practice setting.

### Objective

The purpose of Ongoing Professional Practice Evaluation (OPPE) for the Robotic Surgery PA is to ensure that MGH, through the activities of its medical staff, assesses a practitioner's clinical competence, professional behavior, and surgical skill level on an ongoing basis. This assessment shall be performed by those surgeons with whom providers spend a reasonable amount of time, in addition to one of their Robotic Surgery PA peers. This process shall be done biannually; once in January, and again in June. In addition, once annually in January, a case log with the provider's previous year's scrubbed cases will be printed out and kept on file.

### Statement

I acknowledge that this Physician Assistant is a safe, effective, well-trained, and professional clinician. I have no reservations about this provider participating in the care of our patients, and trust that this Physician Assistant is qualified to act as the bedside assistant during robotic surgical cases. I recommend without hesitation for this provider to continue to care for patients at MGH in their current role.

Physician Assistant: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervising Surgeon: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervising PA: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_





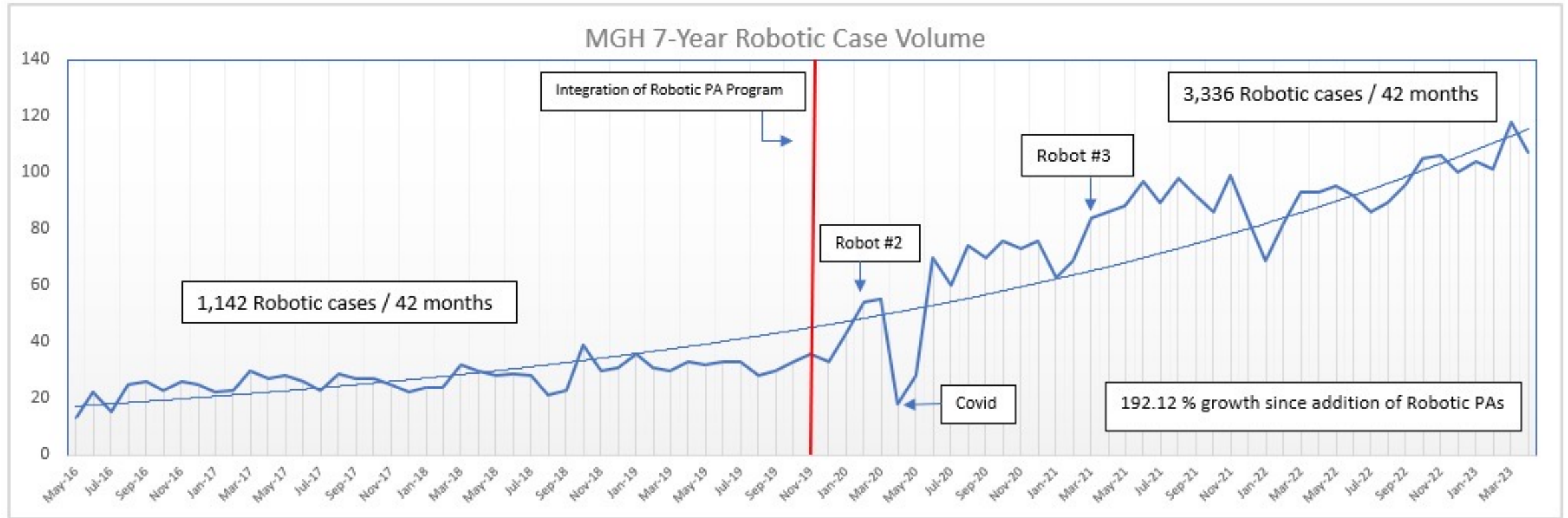


## MGH Robotic Surgery PA Team





# Growth of MGH Robotic Surgery with PAs





*Thank you.*

**Mike Llewellyn, PA-C, FAPACVS**

*Advanced Practice Manager, Robotic Surgery*

Massachusetts General Hospital

