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Microbioz India

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Healthcare Special Edition

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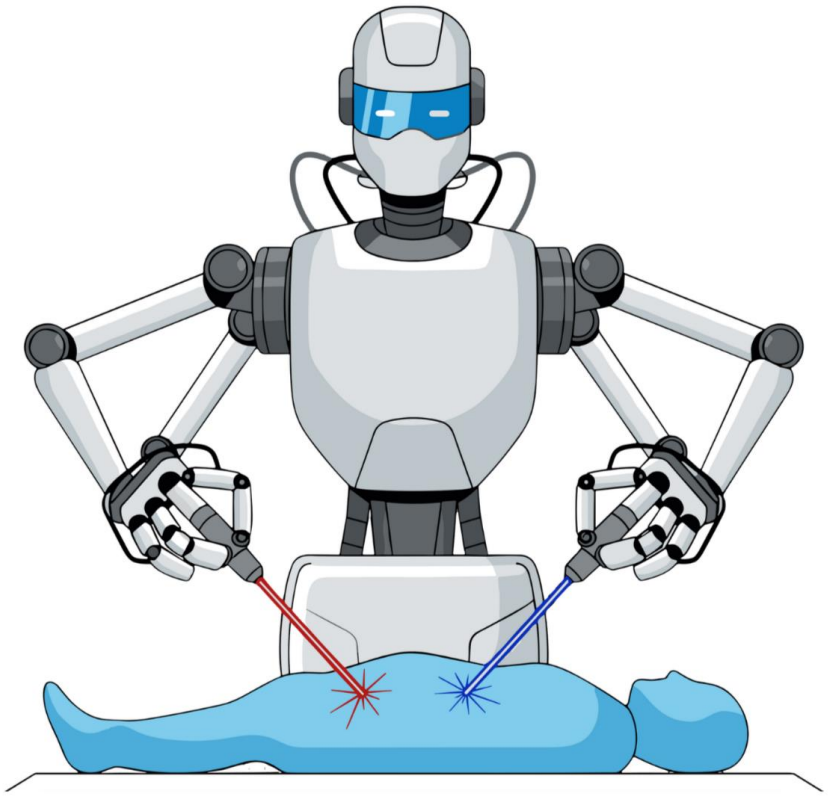
THE RISE OF **INTELLIGENT HEALTHCARE FACILITIES**



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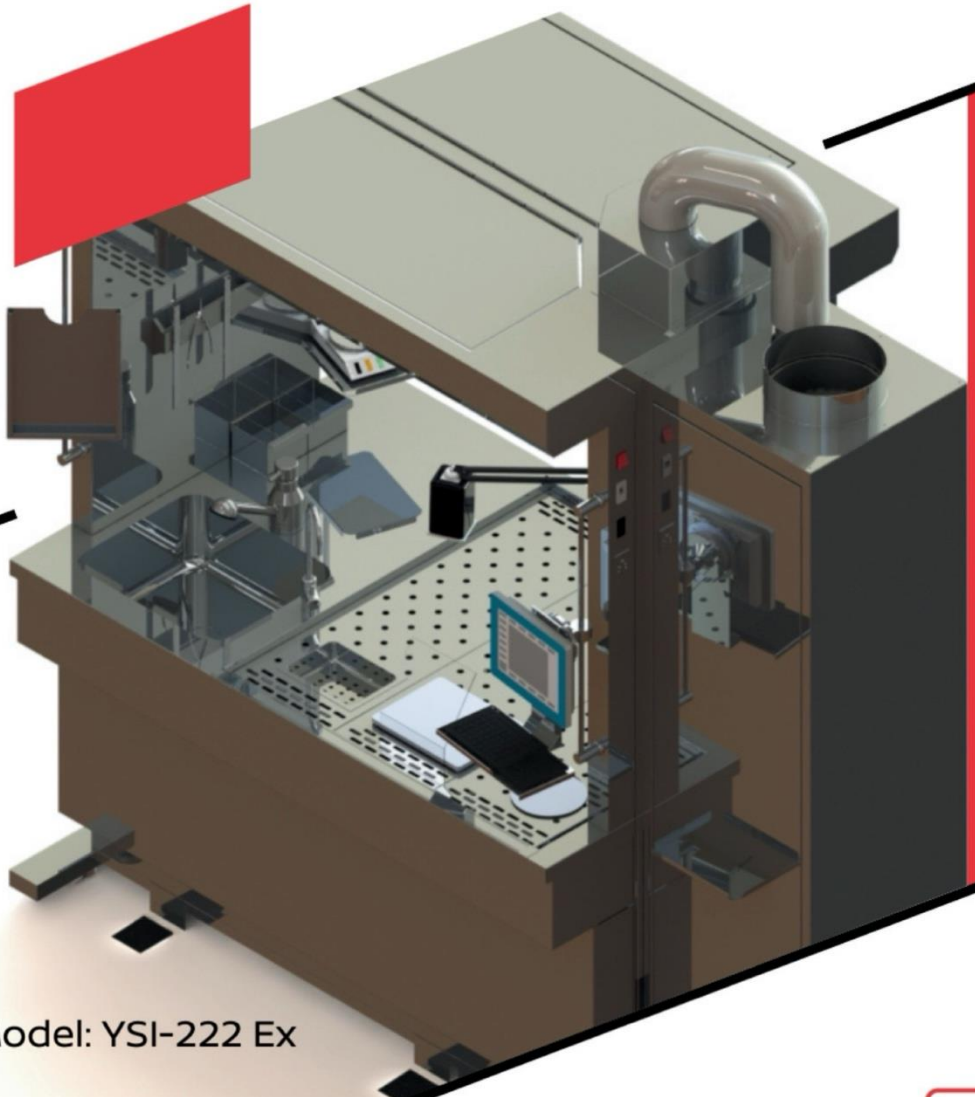

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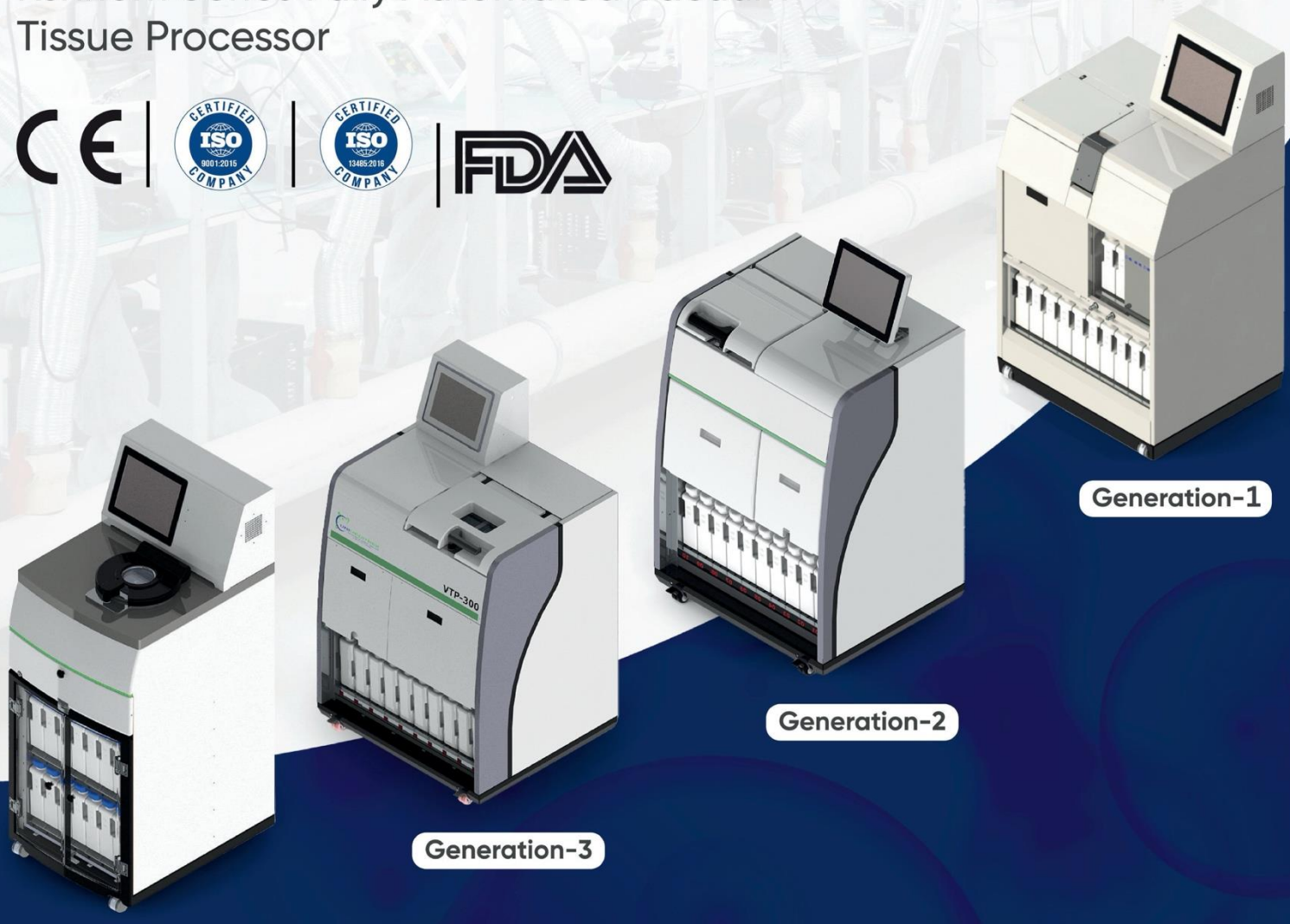

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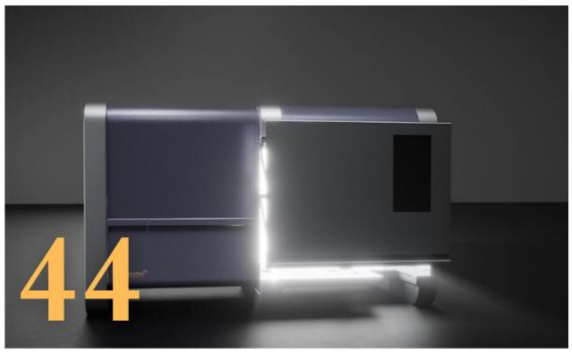

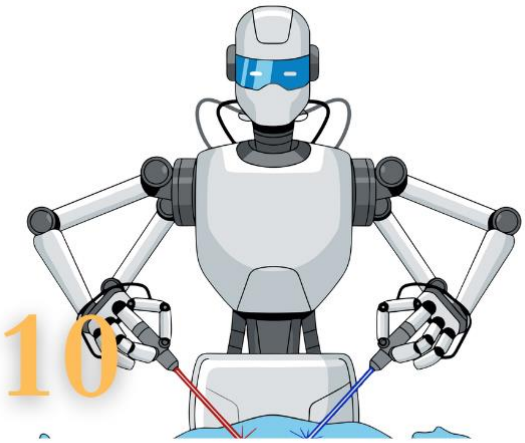

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Ami Polymer

Enabling Healthcare

Medical-Grade **Silicone Tubing** for Endoscope Cabinets

Ensures efficient airflow and complete drying of endoscopes, supporting infection control and patient safety.

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- Medical-grade, non-contaminating material
- High flexibility for complex designs
- Resistant to heat and chemicals
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Advantages

- Ensures complete drying of endoscopes
- Reduces risk of infection and contamination
- Enhances overall system performance
- Durable and long-lasting

Application

Used in endoscope drying cabinets to deliver clean air through internal channels for effective moisture removal.

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EDITOR

Our Staff.

Corporate Office:
Microbioz India
H1/204, Vikramaditya Tower, Alaknanda Market | Kalka Ji,
New Delhi - 110019, India
Mob:- +91-9670704431 | Tel:- +91-11-44459687
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Editor's Word

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the Healthcare & Diagnostics Special Edition of Microbioz India.

It is a pleasure to have you with us once again as we bring you an edition dedicated to one of the most vital transformations of our time—where technology meets compassion to redefine the future of care.

This month's cover story, "**Beyond Beds & Buildings: The Rise of Intelligent Healthcare Facilities**," explores how innovation is not just advancing healthcare systems, but also making them more patient-centric, responsive, and humane. It captures the delicate balance between cutting-edge technology and the essential human touch that defines truly impactful healthcare.

In this special edition, we have curated a collection of insightful articles, expert perspectives, and compelling features that reflect the rapidly evolving healthcare and diagnostics landscape. Our contributors—leaders, innovators, and visionaries—bring forward their expertise and creativity, offering valuable insights into digital health, diagnostics advancements, and patient-focused innovation.

We are also excited to present our Product Showcase section, featuring the latest launches and technological breakthroughs shaping the industry. This segment reinforces our commitment to keeping you informed about innovations that are driving efficiency, accuracy, and better patient outcomes.

At Microbioz India, we continuously strive to deliver content that is not only informative but also meaningful and engaging. Your continued support inspires us to push boundaries and elevate the quality of every edition we bring to you.

We invite you to stay connected with us through our digital platforms and social media channels—your feedback, ideas, and perspectives play a vital role in shaping our journey forward.

Thank you for being a part of our community. We hope this edition leaves you inspired, informed, and optimistic about the future of healthcare.

Enjoy the read!

Warm regards,

Kumar

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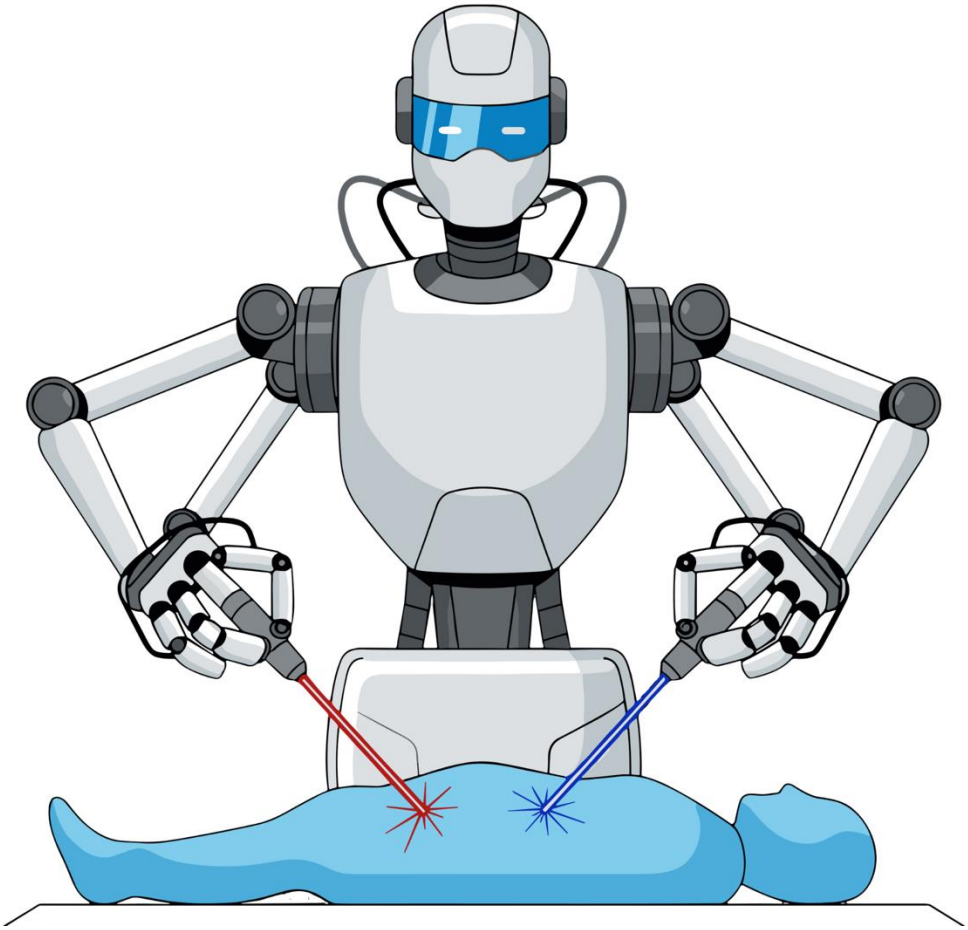
Beyond Beds & Buildings

The Rise of **Intelligent Healthcare Facilities**



The modern healthcare industry has changed exponentially in the past few years, especially in how they utilize technology and how they focus on their customers. There is an enormous amount of data hospitals rely on. With the blending of intelligence, better systems, and focus on patient-design, the outcome of consumer healthcare is vastly superior. There is the expectation that new healthcare systems will evolve to treat patients in a more personalized manner, making improvements to an already technologically sophisticated system.

Optimizing Patient Care

In the past, healthcare expansion meant a growth in the number of beds that could be housed or a newly built facility. The future revolves around the optimization of patient care, a shift in focus from just facility expansion to a holistic approach of care.

High tech healthcare systems utilize modern technology, including but not limited to, real-time data analysis, the Internet of Things, and Artificial Intelligence.

Intelligent technology has paved the way for the advancements in healthcare systems.

Better Systems, Better Outcomes

1. The integration of systems within new healthcare facilities is meant to be seamless.
2. Enhanced disease detection through AI
3. Real-time patient monitoring and equipment tracking
4. Robotics to modernize surgery and logistics
5. Digital Twin Technology to simulate and improve efficiency of healthcare systems

The better systems directly improve patient outcomes and health and reduce the time and costs of the healthcare system.
Healthcare systems must now prioritize the patients and use technology to personalize their approach.

The systems must include devices that improve communication and speed of response so that patient care is improved.
Healthcare accessibility has been improved by receiving clinical expert guidance and services via telemedicine.

Healthcare Data

Intelligent healthcare's foundation is data. Advanced data technology takes in and processes vast clinical and operational data. Results are in predictive analytics, personalized treatment, and effective resource distribution and optimization for hospital management and workflows.
This transition allows hospitals to proactively attend to healthcare needs, rather than reactively.

A Fusion of Sustainability and Intelligent Healthcare

Intelligent facilities also address healthcare's sustainability challenges. The environmental impact of healthcare is reduced with energy-efficient frameworks, smart waste technologies, and green construction.

Smart HVAC, automated lighting, and energy proactivity contribute to sustainability and operational efficiency.

Transformation Challenges.

Intelligent healthcare is a natural progression for healthcare, but this transition comes with challenges:

1. Initial costs of investment are steep
2. Data security and privacy bridge gaps
3. Merging new with old is a tech integration problem.
4. The new tech requires cultivated human capital.
5. Collaboration, planning, and innovation are qualities that overcome challenges.

Integrated Healthcare

Intelligent healthcare is the beginning of a new healthcare era. The rise of intelligent healthcare facilities enables a connected healthcare ecosystem.

In the not-too-distant future, we can anticipate:

1. Hospitals that will soon operate without human oversight
2. Systems that make medical decisions autonomously
3. Continuous and automatic integration of diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up
4. Customized experiences for individual patients

Overall

Today's healthcare and technology partnership will build efficient, high-quality healthcare systems and facilities that will be smarter, more effective, and more focused on the patient than ever before.

Healthcare professionals and innovators must integrate smart technology in healthcare, which will redefine the boundaries of healthcare.

Operational Excellence: Optimizing Efficiency in Modern Hospitals

In order for a modern hospital to be successful, operational excellence is vital.

Through the modern hospital's operational excellence, the hospitals have needed to meet the modern requests to be continuously agile, innovative and responsive to provide higher quality care for patients, ensure control of operational costs, manage an increasing number of patients and adapt to the constant changes in the regulatory requirements.

Through the operational excellence of modern hospitals there is modern working smarter for patients, and not modern providing a higher volume of patients care and working harder.

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Areas needing improvement include:

1. Minimizing patient wait times
2. Reducing unnecessary tests/procedures
3. Supply Chain Management
4. Inter-departmental coordination
5. Bottleneck removal leads to better productivity, clearer patient satisfaction.

Resource Management

Resource-optimized hospitals are efficient, and resources can include staff, equipment, and even their physical infrastructure.

1. Workforce Scheduling: Smarter time-management leads to staff availability at peak times.

2. Asset Tracking: Equipment monitoring means less time and fewer lost medtech resources.

3. Bed Management: More effective utilization means swifter patient turnover.

These elements aim toward an efficient system without sacrificing care.

Patient Flow

The most pressing operational challenge is devising an optimum patient flow. Any delay in patient admission/diagnosis/discharge can have negative impact of great magnitude.

Modern hospitals are leveraging:

1. Patient Tracking in real-time
2. Digital Appointment Scheduling
3. Integrated Care Plans
4. Planning for early Discharge

An effective patient flow can substantially improve operational outcomes.

Decision Making

There is no ambiguity in operational excellence: data analytics is invaluable. Per operational data, hospitals are able to:

1. Detect Workflow Inefficiencies
2. Access Conformance Metrics in Real-time
3. Anticipate Patient Load
4. Enhance Spending and Financial Control

Data-driven insights allow for informed decision-making and sustained operational excellence. Infection control, regulatory compliance, and maintaining quality of clinical operations are priorities in any hospital.

Risks to patient safety must be eliminated, and excellence in operational performance must be achieved. Standardized protocols, digital monitoring systems, and audits foster accountability and consistency.

Barriers to Achieving Operational Excellence

Numerous hospital challenges to attaining operational excellence have been identified, including:

1. Taking a measure of operational excellence requires a tumultuous mindset, integrating new technologies, and investing in legacy systems.
2. A hospital's ability to achieve operational excellence in technology and service will be measured by long-term improvement strategies.
3. Short-term solutions will not be effective.
4. Continuous improvement efforts will be the hallmark of successful hospitals.

Trends in the Future of Hospital Operations

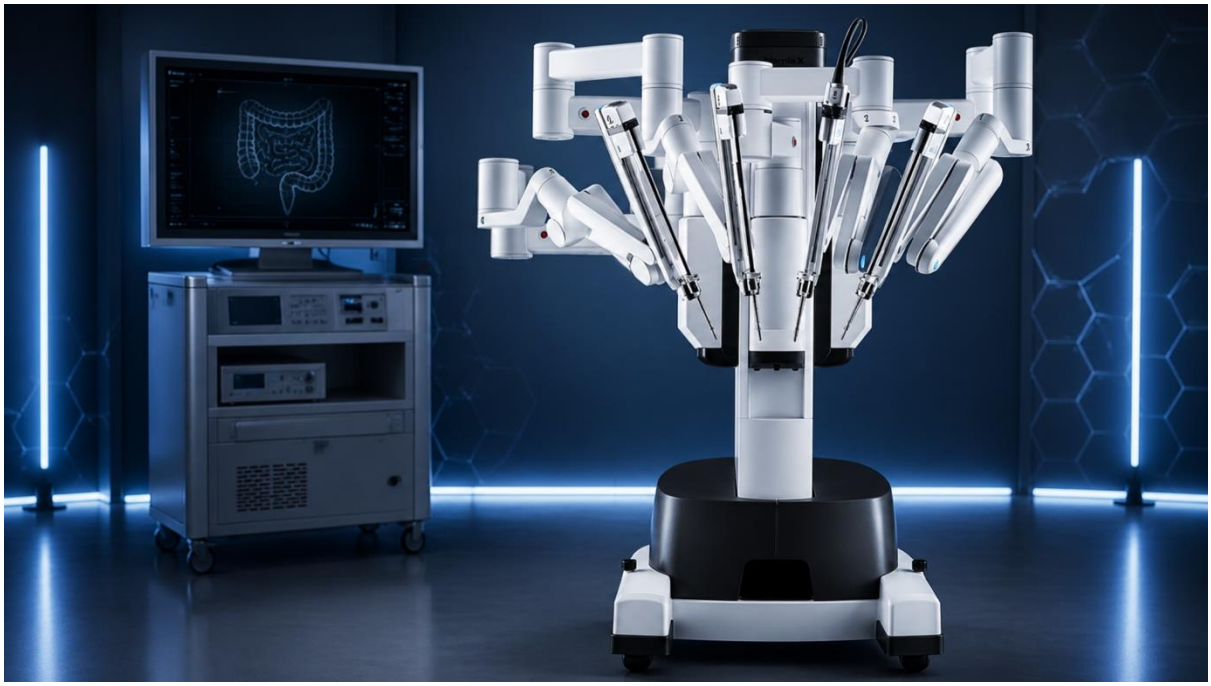
The future of hospital operations will be intelligent and predictive; automation will be a hallmark of an agile and patient-centered quality system.

1. Robotics in the pharmacy
2. AI technology to run hospital operations
3. Simulated systems

Conclusion

Healthcare systems must be able to offer operational excellence to remain competitive. An operational excellence approach will improve an organization's patient care delivery, employee satisfaction, and financial bottom line.

True clinical and operational excellence will be achieved when healthcare systems find the pathway to operational excellence.



Robotic Surgery For Hernia: Precision Meets Faster Recovery

A New Era In Hernia Care

Hernia repair has seen a remarkable evolution, moving from open procedures to laparoscopic techniques, and now to robotic-assisted surgery. This advancement represents a significant step forward in minimally invasive care. At Kauvery Hospital, Alwarpet, Chennai, robotic hernia surgery combines surgical expertise with advanced technology to deliver greater precision, reduced pain, and faster recovery.

Understanding Hernia

A hernia occurs when an internal organ or tissue pushes through a weakened area in the muscle or connective tissue. Common types include inguinal, umbilical, incisional, and hiatal hernias. While some may begin as small and painless, hernias can gradually enlarge and lead to complications if left untreated. Early evaluation and timely intervention are important to prevent progression.

What Is Robotic Hernia Surgery?

Robotic hernia surgery is a minimally invasive procedure where the surgeon uses a robotic platform to perform the operation with enhanced control.

The surgery is carried out through small incisions, with robotic arms translating the surgeon's hand movements into highly precise actions. A high-definition, three-dimensional view of the surgical field allows better visualization of tissues, nerves, and blood vessels, enabling meticulous repair and accurate mesh placement.

Why Robotic Surgery Matters

One of the key advantages of robotic surgery is precision. The system filters natural hand tremors and allows refined movements, which is especially important in delicate tissue handling. Smaller incisions result in less trauma to the body, leading to reduced post-operative pain and minimal scarring. Patients often experience quicker recovery and can return to normal activities sooner compared to traditional open surgery. Additionally, the risk of complications such as infections is lower, particularly in complex or recurrent hernia cases.

The Technology Behind The Procedure

The technology behind robotic surgery includes a surgeon console, robotic arms, and specialised instruments.

The surgeon operates from a console that provides a magnified 3D view, while robotic arms equipped with advanced instruments replicate wrist-like movements with a greater range. These instruments enable precise dissection, suturing, and mesh placement even in confined spaces.

Advancements Improving Surgical Outcomes

Modern robotic systems incorporate several advancements that further improve surgical outcomes. Motion scaling converts larger hand movements into fine, controlled actions, while tremor filtration ensures stability. Enhanced dexterity allows surgeons to work efficiently in difficult anatomical areas. The ergonomic design also reduces surgeon fatigue, supporting consistency during longer procedures.

The Growing Role Of Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence is gradually enhancing robotic surgery by introducing data-driven insights and improving surgical planning. However, the procedure remains entirely surgeon-controlled, with technology serving as a powerful support system.

The integration of clinical expertise and advanced technology leads to greater accuracy, fewer complications, and improved recovery outcomes.

The Future Of Hernia Surgery

Looking ahead, the future of hernia surgery is becoming more precise, minimally invasive, and patient-centric.

With continuous advancements in robotics and AI, surgical care is moving towards more predictable outcomes and better overall patient experience.

In Essence

Robotic hernia surgery reflects the seamless integration of human expertise and technology, offering a safer, more effective approach to modern surgical care.

About Author:

Dr. Joyner Abraham M is a highly qualified **Consultant in Minimal Access Surgery** at **Kauvery Hospital Chennai**. He holds an **MBBS**, **MS in General Surgery**, **DNB in General Surgery**, and an **MCh in Minimal Access Surgery**, along with the prestigious **MRCS (England)**.

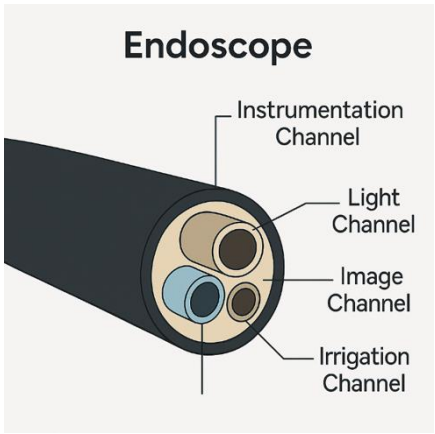
With advanced training in **minimally invasive, robotic and laparoscopic procedures**, Dr. Joyner specializes in **General Surgery**, delivering precision-driven surgical care with a strong focus on faster recovery and improved patient outcomes.

The Hidden Role of **Silicone Tubing** in Endoscope Safety

Introducing modern healthcare, patient safety is very important. While advanced machines get most of the attention, some small components
play a big role behind the scenes.
One such component is silicone tubing inside endoscope cabinets, which helps keep medical instruments safe and ready for use.

Endoscope cabinets play a critical role in maintaining instrument sterility after disinfection.

Why Drying Endoscopes is Important



Endoscopes have long and narrow internal channels. Even after cleaning, **moisture can remain inside** these channels.

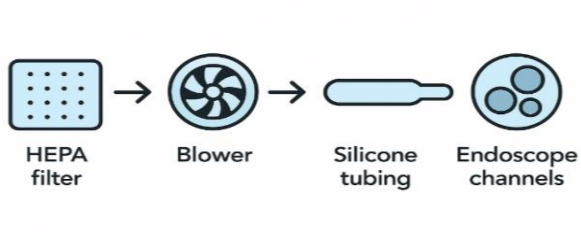
This leftover moisture can lead to:

- Bacterial growth
- Biofilm formation
- Risk of infection between patients

So, proper drying is not optional—it is essential for safety.

Complex internal channels make complete drying of endoscopes a technical challenge.

How Drying Works



Endoscope cabinets use **clean, controlled airflow** to dry the internal channels.

This airflow system ensures:

- Air reaches every channel
- Moisture is completely removed
- Instruments stay safe for the next use

Silicone Tubing: Core of Airflow Systems

Silicone tubing serves a crucial function in the airflow system.

Connecting the air source with the endoscope, it delivers clear, dry air to the most remote internal channels.

Without silicone tubing, the cabinet system would simply fail to work properly, as it serves a core function of the system.

Silicone tubing for medical purposes offers purity, flexibility, and hardness.

Silicone Advantages

Silicone offers several advantages:

1. See protection
2. Non and self-cleaning
3. Reflected from hot and little dipped
4. Enduring and well composed

These qualities make silicone advantageous construction elements of medical airflow systems.

Easy to Form

There are distinctions amongst different shape endoscopes. These distinctions make silicone tubing to be:

1. Constructible in many distinct sizes
2. Form-fittable to many different systems
3. Constructible to many different complex systems

This helps to ensure complianace with sufficient dry conditions in all channels.

Drying gaps are direct channels of uniform air flow primitives.

Silicone tubing offers assurance of

1. Adhering to safe guidelines of airflow
2. Guaranteeing dry conditions
3. Limiting risk of infection

This plays a role in the overall performance of the system.

Ami Polymer: Upgrading the Standards of Silicone

The evolution of Health standards comes with the necessity of reliable and high performance materials.

Manufacturers need partners that understand both the technical and regulatory standards. Ami Polymer is a trusted supplier of medical grade silicone hoses tubing for:

1. Solutions for healthcare needs that are engineered to precision
2. Solutions to your needs that are tailored for complex systems
3. Solutions for products that are of excellent quality and that meet the international standards

With a strong focus on innovation and consistency, Ami Polymer assists OEMs and medical end users in developing endoscope

cabinet systems that are safe and efficient.

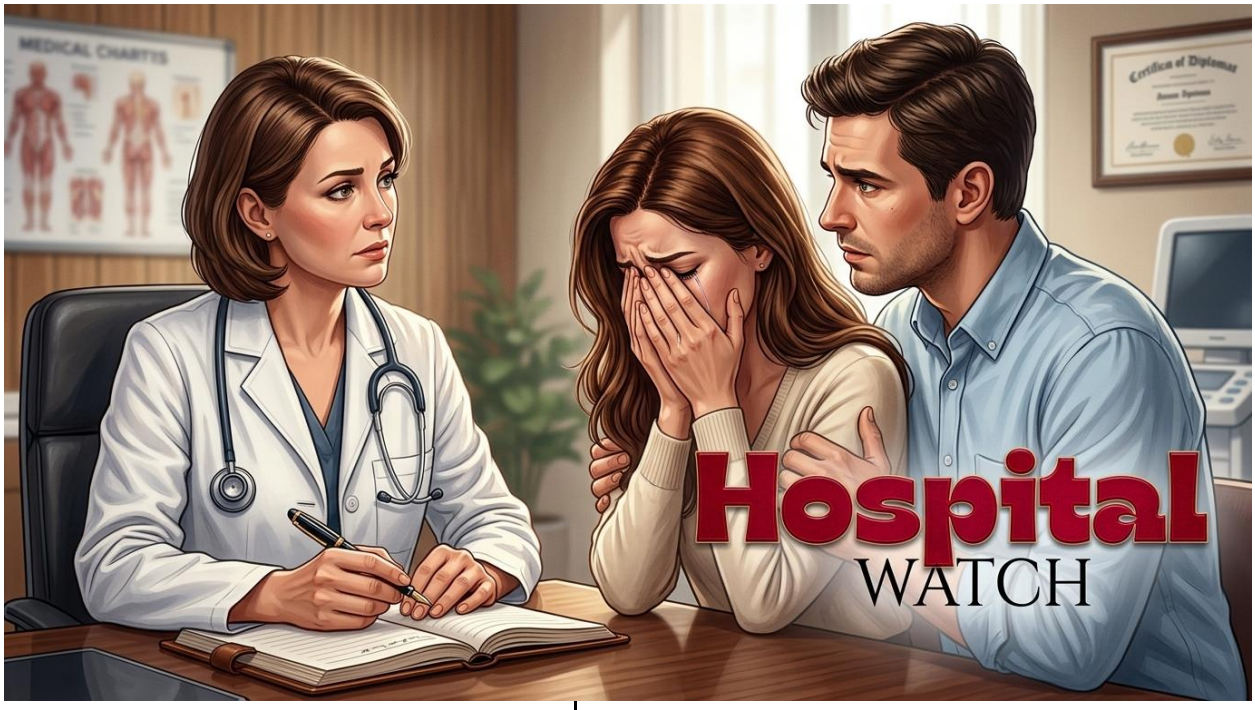
The Power of the Unseen in Modern Healthcare

What lies beneath is what drives true innovation in most industries. Silicone tubing is rarely visible but is crucial for the construction of endoscope cabinets.

These components allow controlled airflow, and are vital to the cabinet's function of maintaining the sterility and dryness of endoscopic equipment.

With the continued evolution of medical care, the role of what is often unseen and overlooked becomes of even greater significance, illustrating that in endoscopy cabinet systems, the smallest components are often the most essential.

Written By - Divya Joshi
Executive (Healthcare Division)
Mail id - divya.j@amipolymer.com



Hyderabad Orthodontist Dr. Snigdha Gowd, bestowed with 'Dental Oscars' honour, at the renowned 'Famdent Awards'!

Dr. Snigdha Gowd, Chairperson and CEO of **Dr. Gowd's Dental Hospitals**, has been bestowed with the coveted '**Aligner Specialist of the Year award**' at the renowned **Famdent Excellence Awards**, considered as the "Dental Oscars" of India, held in Mumbai.

She is the only orthodontist from Telangana to receive this distinguished recognition, marking a significant milestone for the state's dental fraternity.

An Indian School of Business (ISB) graduate and a recognized leader among the 10,000 Women Entrepreneurs initiative, Dr. Gowd brings together business acumen and clinical expertise, making her a prominent voice in healthcare leadership.

With over 25 years of clinical excellence, Dr. Snigdha Gowd is a specialist in advanced orthodontics.

She is known for her expertise in hybrid orthodontic mechanics, combining aligners with fixed techniques to deliver highly customised and efficient treatment outcomes. She is also recognised for treating complex and challenging orthodontic cases using aligner therapy, pushing the boundaries of what modern aligners can achieve. Her unwavering commitment to orthodontics and continuous innovation has positioned her as a leader in modern smile design.

Adding to her achievements, Dr. Snigdha Gowd is a three-time Platinum Provider of Invisalign (2023, 2024, 2025) and the only female orthodontist to have achieved this distinction, reflecting both clinical excellence and patient trust.

Expressing her gratitude, **Dr. Snigdha Gowd** said, "*This recognition is a reflection of the trust our patients place in us and the dedication of our entire team. Orthodontics is not just about aligning teeth; it's about transforming lives with precision and care.*"

About Dr. Gowd's Dental Hospitals

Dr. Gowd's Dental Hospitals, a legacy institution with multiple centres, continues to set benchmarks in advanced dentistry by integrating cutting-edge technology with personalised patient care.

About Famdent Excellence Awards

The Famdent Excellence Awards celebrate excellence, innovation, and leadership in dentistry, recognising professionals who are shaping the future of oral healthcare in India.

Happiest Health Expands Dental Care Portfolio with Second Happiest Pearls Dental Clinic in Whitefield, Bangalore

New state-of-the-art facility strengthens access to advanced, Atithi-centric dental care in Whitefield

Happiest Health, an integrated "Healthcare & Wellness Enterprise," has launched its second Happiest Pearls Dental Clinic in Bengaluru at Miraya Rose Complex, Whitefield. This further strengthens Happiest Health's presence in one of the city's fastest-growing residential and commercial hubs.

HAPPIEST HEALTH
Better Knowledge. Better Health.

Designed as a 4,500 sq. ft. facility, the clinic brings together advanced dental technology, experienced clinicians, and an Atithi-first approach to deliver comprehensive, high-quality oral care. Led by Dr. Vikram Shetty and guided by senior specialists Dr. Achuth M. Baliga, Medical Director, Happiest Pearls, and Dr. Samuel Shadrack Surender, Deputy Medical Director, Happiest Pearls, the clinic is equipped with five dental chairs and a CBCT (Cone Beam Computed Tomography) machine, enabling precise diagnostics and end-to-end treatment under one roof.

Happiest Pearls Whitefield

The clinic offers a comprehensive range of services, including preventive and pediatric dentistry, restorative and prosthetic treatments, aligners, orthodontic treatment, dental implants, oral surgery, as well as laser-assisted procedures—ensuring atithis have access to holistic and specialized care within a single, integrated setting.

Built with a strong focus on comfort, efficiency, and clinical precision, the facility integrates digital workflows and high-end equipment to deliver seamless care, from routine check-ups to advanced surgical procedures.

The emphasis on stringent infection control, sterilization, and global asepsis protocols ensures a safe and reliable environment for atithis.

The launch comes amid rising awareness around oral health and increasing demand for high-quality outpatient dental services in urban India, particularly in rapidly developing localities like Whitefield.

Dr. Vikram Shetty, BDS, MDS in Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics, Unit Head-Whitefield, Happiest Pearls, said, *"As a clinician, my focus is on delivering precise, efficient, and comfortable treatments tailored to each atithi's needs. This new facility allows us to combine advanced technology with a personalized approach, ensuring better outcomes and a significantly improved atithi experience."*

Dr. Achuth M. Baliga, Medical Director, Happiest Pearls, said, *"At Happiest Pearls, we are committed to clinical excellence rooted in decades of experience. Our approach integrates surgical precision with long-term oral health outcomes, ensuring that every treatment is both functionally robust and aesthetically refined."*

Ashok Soota, Chairman & Chief Strategy Officer, Happiest Health, said, *"At Happiest Health, we are focused on building a trusted healthcare network that combines compassion with cutting-edge innovation. The launch of our second dental clinic marks an important step in making world-class care more accessible."*

Davis Karedan, Co-Chairman & COO, Happiest Health, said, *"With every new center, we are deepening our commitment to atithi-centric care and operational excellence. This clinic reflects our focus on quality, consistency, and creating a welcoming healthcare experience that atithi can trust."*

With this launch, Happiest Health continues to expand its integrated healthcare model, where oral health is positioned as a critical component of overall wellness.

The company plans to further scale its dental network with additional clinics across India, reinforcing its commitment to accessible, high-quality healthcare delivery.

About Happiest Health

Happiest Health is an integrated "Healthcare & Wellness Enterprise" promoted by **Ashok Soota**. We are committed to improving health through better knowledge, state-of-the-art diagnostics, wellness centers, and clinics in a unique away-from-the-hospital model.

The business divisions of Happiest Health comprise **Knowledge, Diagnostics, Healthcare Services and Wellness**. The Knowledge business is already a global leader by virtue of its much-acclaimed Happiest Health magazine, free daily Healthzine, podcasts, videos, and impactful health summits. Diagnostics provides routine blood tests and specialized tests in Bangalore.

The Healthcare services (HCS) business specializes in multiple specialities. We currently offer Dental and Orthopaedic services. We will soon offer ENT, Ophthalmology, Paediatrics, Obesity & Weight management, Urology, and other disciplines.

The Wellness business too has a range of clinics including Ayurveda, Mental health, Body Dynamics, and Physiotherapy.

Our mission at Happiest Health is to inspire everyone to **"embrace wellness"** as a way of life.

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S.L. Raheja Hospital, Mahim-A Fortis Associate Hosts Landmark 'India EUS Summit 2026', Witnesses Strong Global Participation

392 delegates from 14 countries convened for advanced EUS training and 20 live case demonstrations

S.L. Raheja Hospital, Mahim-A Fortis Associate successfully hosted the 'India EUS Summit 2026', on April 4th & 5th 2026 in Mumbai, bringing together leading gastroenterologists and experts in endoscopy experts from across the globe. The summit witnessed excellent participation as 392 delegates from 14 different countries (USA, France, Italy as well as other countries) joined-in, further demonstrating their expanding global presence in advanced endoscopic care.

(R) S.L. Raheja Hospital Mumbai-A Fortis Associate's Dr Kunal Punamiya & Dr Vinay Dhir receive 'WEO Expert Training Centre' certification at India EUS Summit 2026 hosted in Mumbai

One of the most significant events of the summit was the demonstration of 20 complex Endoscopic Ultrasound (EUS) procedures, transmitted live from the hospital's state-of-the-art endoscopy rooms of the hospital, which are equipped with the latest technology for conducting such endoscopic procedures. The two-day program also included didactic lectures by national & international experts, EUS Magic Box and other models for allowing hands-on training.

S.L. RAHEJA HOSPITAL
A Fortis ASSOCIATE

Commenting on the success of the summit, **Dr Vinay Dhir, Director – Dept. of Gastroenterology, IDL Care, S.L. Raheja Hospital, Mahim - A Fortis Associate and Course Chairperson for India EUS Summit 2026** stated, *"The 'India EUS Summit 2026' exemplifies our dedication to achieving superior endoscopy through education and practical training. Not only does it contribute to the enhancement of the clinical practice but also helps establish India as a center for high-level gastroenterological training."*

Dr. Kunal Punamiya, CEO, S.L. Raheja Hospital, Mahim – A Fortis Associate, added, *"The hosting of such a global event reflects our mission of nurturing innovation, collaboration, and excellence in clinical practice. The involvement of several nations and the success of the live demonstrations reaffirm our dedication to providing excellent healthcare and education."*

The Institute of Digestive & Liver Care at S.L. Raheja Hospital, Mahim – A Fortis Associate, led by Dr. Vinay Dhir, Director of Gastroenterology, was awarded the prestigious WEO Expert Training Centre certification by the World Endoscopy Organization at the India EUS Summit 2026.

The award was received by Dr. Kunal Punamiya, CEO, and Dr. Vinay Dhir, marking a significant milestone for the institution.

Notably, only 40 centres globally have received this distinction, making S.L. Raheja Hospital the first in Mumbai to be recognized as a WEO Expert Training Centre. As part of this achievement, the centre will also serve as a training hub for doctors from countries across Africa, further strengthening global collaboration and advancing expertise in endoscopic care.

The successful conduct of the summit was made possible by the dedication and teamwork of the senior doctors and clinical staff at S.L. Raheja Hospital. This milestone further strengthens the hospital's reputation as a pioneer in gastroenterology and endoscopy.

About IHH Healthcare ("IHH")

IHH is a leading multinational healthcare provider shaping the future of care. Driven by our aspiration to Care. For Good., we unite medical excellence and innovation, pushing boundaries through our trusted brands such as Acibadem, Gleneagles, Fortis, Island, Mount Elizabeth, Pantai, Parkway and Prince Court. Across 10 countries, including Malaysia, Singapore, Türkiye, India and Greater China, our 70,000-strong team delivers world-class excellence every day, within and beyond our 140 healthcare facilities, including more than 80 hospitals. Our comprehensive services span the full healthcare continuum, from primary and ambulatory to quaternary care, complemented by diagnostics, imaging, rehabilitation, telehealth and home care.

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SIMPACT 2026 Brings Together National Healthcare Leaders to Advance Simulation-Based Healthcare Education in India

SIMPACT 2026, a national symposium focused on the future of healthcare training and competency-based education, convened in New Delhi through a collaborative effort between the Healthcare Sector Skill Council (HSSC), the SET Facility at AIIMS Delhi, and MediSim VR.

SIMPACT 2026 Brings Together National Healthcare Leaders to Advance Simulation-Based Healthcare Education in India

The event brought together leading healthcare educators, policymakers, clinicians, and simulation experts to explore how simulation-based training and immersive technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI) and virtual reality (VR), can strengthen clinical competency and enhance workforce preparedness across India's healthcare ecosystem.

Hosted at the Healthcare Sector Skill Council in New Delhi, the event featured keynote addresses, expert panel discussions, and a live demonstration of immersive simulation training at the Advanced Technology Centre (ATC) Lab.
Attendees experienced a VR-based learning environment designed to support clinical skill development in controlled, repeatable settings.

SIMPACT 2026 was honored by the presence of distinguished chief guests: Dr. Ambuj Roy, Professor of Cardiology and Head of SET Facility, AIIMS Delhi, and Dr. V N Mahalakshmi, Vice Chancellor, Santosh Deemed-to-be-University, both of whom addressed the attendees and shared key insights on the role of simulation in advancing healthcare education.

The event was also graced by the Guest of Honor, Dr. Manish Honwad, Surgeon Rear Admiral, VSM, Commanding Officer, INHS Asvini, who shared perspectives on scaling healthcare skill training across civilians and defense healthcare systems.

The speaker lineup featured a distinguished group of national healthcare leaders and simulation experts, including Ashish Jain, CEO, Healthcare Sector Skill Council; Dr. Rashmi Ramachandran, Professor, Department of Anaesthesiology, Pain Medicine & Critical Care, AIIMS Delhi; Dr. Dinker Pai, Director of the Medical Simulation Centre & Professor of Surgery, Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Research Centre, and Dr. Adith Chinnaswami, Organizing Sectary, SIMPACT 2026, Co-founder & COO, MediSim VR.

The symposium further included insights from panel experts such as Dr. Rajesh Kumar Sharma, Professor and Head of the Department of Critical Care Nursing, Himalayan Institute of Medical Sciences; Dr. Lekha Viswanath, Principal, Nursing College & Deputy Director, Nursing Service, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham; Col. Binu Sharma, Executive Director, Lone Star. CEO INS India; Dr. Anu Gauba, Principal-cum-Professor, Department of Nursing, School of Healthcare and Allied Sciences, GD Goenka University; Ms. Ekta Malik, Chief of Academic Initiatives and Simulation, Ebekmed; Ms. Robia Chacko, Manager: Training and Quality, Vidyanta; Ms. Anshu Verma, Assistant General Manager, Healthcare Sector Skill Council; and Mr. Unnikrishnan, Deputy Nursing Superintendent: Academics, Quality and Critical Care, Sarvodaya Healthcare.

Discussions at SIMPACT 2026 centered on three key themes: enabling Competency-Based Medical & Nursing Education through simulation, addressing the gap between simulation infrastructure and measurable learning outcomes, and scaling advanced simulation technologies to meet the demands of India's growing healthcare workforce.

As India continues to expand its capacity in healthcare education and delivery systems, simulation-based learning is increasingly recognized as a foundational component of modern clinical training.

AI-enabled immersive platforms enable healthcare professionals to practice procedures, refine clinical decision-making, and engage in complex scenarios in safe, standardized, and repeatable environments, thereby reducing patient risk and improving readiness.

Ashish Jain, CEO, Healthcare Sector Skill Council, underscored the role of technology in workforce development, "*As India expands its healthcare delivery systems, maintaining consistent training standards becomes critical. "Simulation and immersive technologies offer scalable solutions to strengthen skill development and workforce readiness.*"

Dr. Ambuj Roy, Professor of Cardiology & Head of the SET Facility, AIIMS Delhi, noted the increasing importance of simulation in high-acuity disciplines, "*Simulation enables clinicians to rehearse complex procedures and critical scenarios without patient risk. Its integration into medical education strengthens preparedness, team coordination, and patient safety.*"

Dr. V N Mahalakshmi, Vice Chancellor, Santosh deemed-to-be University, stated, "**Simulation is not a substitute for clinical experience**." It enables healthcare professionals to learn new skills and refine existing ones in a zero-risk immersive environment, ultimately improving patient care.

Platforms like SIMPACT play a critical role in building awareness and enabling the structured adoption of advanced simulation training across healthcare education.

Dr. Manish Honwad, Surgeon Rear Admiral, VSM, Commanding Officer, INHS Asvini, noted, "*In the armed forces, we rely on simulation to prepare for high-risk, high-stakes situations where there is no margin for error. Healthcare operates under similar pressures.*

Integrating technologies such as virtual reality into medical training ensures professionals are better equipped, more confident, and ready to respond effectively when it matters most."

Dr. Adith Chinnaswami, Organizing Secretary, SIMPACT 2026, Co-founder and COO, MediSim VR, emphasized the role of immersive technology in bridging training gaps. "*Simulation creates a pathway between theoretical knowledge and clinical practice. With immersive technologies such as virtual reality, learners can repeatedly practice procedures and decision-making until competency is achieved, significantly improving training quality and consistency.*" SIMPACT 2026 reflects a growing national movement toward collaboration between academia, industry, and sector skill bodies to advance simulation-based healthcare education and build a future-ready healthcare workforce.

Fortis Hiranandani Hospital Navi Mumbai Champions Next-gen Learning in Gynaecological Endoscopy for Young Obgyns Across Mumbai

Fortis Hiranandani Hospital, Navi Mumbai, successfully hosted a train-the-trainer live surgical workshop on 28th March 2026, focusing on advanced gynecological endoscopy skill development amongst young practitioners.

The workshop offered a valuable opportunity for medical professionals to enhance their expertise in minimally invasive laparoscopic surgery, which allows for faster recovery, less pain, and fewer complications compared to traditional surgery. Helmed by **Dr. Prashant Bhamare, HOD & Director – Obstetrics and Gynecology at Fortis Hiranandani Hospital, Navi Mumbai,** the workshop was designed to enhance the capabilities of doctors in performing complex surgeries by adopting and embracing advanced techniques.

L–R: Dr Sujay N., Mr Nitin Kamaria & Dr Prashant Bhamare with his fellows at Advanced Gynaecological Endoscopy Workshop, on March 28, at Fortis Hiranandani Hospital, Navi Mumbai

The workshop featured three complex Total Laparoscopic Hysterectomy (TLH) surgeries, each focusing on different challenges. One surgery included Bilateral Salpingo-Oophorectomy, where both ovaries and fallopian tubes were removed.

This procedure is often needed for conditions like fibroids, ovarian cysts, or cancer. Another surgery demonstrated TLH with Endometriosis, a condition where tissue similar to the uterine lining grows outside the uterus, causing pain. The third surgery focused on TLH in a patient with a history of two previous Caesarean Sections (LSCS), which can make the procedure more complicated due to scar tissue and changes in anatomy.

The main focus of the workshop was on managing uterine fibroids, which are non-cancerous growths in the uterus. Managing these conditions in patients who have had previous surgeries, such as caesareans or fibroid removals, can be challenging, which was shown during the live cases. Advanced energy devices were used during these surgeries to ensure accuracy, reduce complications, and provide valuable learning for all the participants.

Dr. Prashant Bhamare, HOD & Director, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Fortis Hiranandani Hospital, Navi Mumbai said, *"The workshop provided an exceptional opportunity for young caregivers to gain hands-on experience about advanced laparoscopic techniques. The focus on complex cases, such as managing fibroids in patients with prior surgeries, was important for teaching the latest approaches to surgery. I'm confident that this practical experience will significantly help improve patient outcomes."*

The event also included structured teaching sessions, where participants learned about the newest developments in laparoscopic surgery. Energy devices, which are used in laparoscopic procedures to cut and coagulate tissue with heat, were also discussed. These devices help make surgeries more precise, reduce blood loss, and shorten recovery times for patients.

Mr. Nitin Kamaria, Facility Director, Fortis Hiranandani Hospital, Navi Mumbai, commented, *"At Fortis, we believe in nurturing the skills of our clinical and nursing teams so they can provide the best care possible. With Dr. Bhamare leading the way, we've been able to help clinicians across the city gain hands-on expertise in advanced gynaecological endoscopic techniques. This workshop was a wonderful opportunity for doctors to learn, share experiences, and grow together. We are proud to have hosted such a meaningful event.* "The workshop was attended by consultants at Fortis Hiranandani Hospital, as well as doctors from civic institutions and other leading private hospitals in Navi Mumbai. The event provided a platform for knowledge exchange and discussion of best practices in laparoscopic surgery, helping participants enhance the quality of care for their patients.

Dr Bindhu KS, President, Navi Mumbai Obstetrics and Gynecological Society was also present to deliver a keynote for this session. This workshop is a part of Fortis Hiranandani Hospital's ongoing efforts to lead the way in medical education and surgical innovation, not just within the unit but across the medical community. By offering such programs, the hospital ensures that doctors have the tools and knowledge they need to deliver the best care to their patients.

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Lilavati Hospital Introduces a Patient-centric Wellness Zone in Partnership with Starbucks, Extending Care Beyond Treatment

Lilavati Hospital & Research Centre partners with Starbucks for a space offering comfort and familiarity in its campus for patients, caregivers and the local community

Lilavati Hospital & Research **Centre** has been guided for decades by a singular belief — more than healthcare, human care- as a premier multi-specialty tertiary healthcare institute of Mumbai. While sustaining the same continued commitment to humane caregiving, the hospital has introduced a dedicated comfort space within its campus, in partnership with Starbucks.

Actor Padmini Kolhapure with Rajiv Mehta and Prashant Mehta, trustees of Lilavati Hospital and Research Centre, at the inauguration of the Starbucks cafe there

Lilavati Hospital recognises that the journey of patients and caregivers extends beyond diagnosis and treatment to moments of waiting, recovery, and emotional resilience. The partnership is a thoughtful step towards enhancing the experience for all those who step into its premises.

The Starbucks space offers a familiar and welcoming environment for patients, their families, caregivers, and the local community, creating a place to pause, reflect, and find a moment of relief during a demanding time.

Lilavati Hospital

This initiative builds on the hospital's endeavour to create spaces that are accessible, reassuring, and inclusive, addressing not only clinical needs but also the human experience that surrounds them.

Mr. Rajiv Mehta, Permanent Trustee of Lilavati Hospital and Research Centre, said, *"At Lilavati Hospital, our responsibility goes beyond delivering medical excellence. We recognise that for patients and their families, time spent in a hospital can be emotionally challenging. This initiative is a meaningful step towards creating an environment that supports them through that journey by offering moments of comfort and familiarity within the hospital ecosystem. In partnering with Starbucks, we have sought to create a space that is not only reassuring for those within the hospital but also welcoming for the larger community that has placed its trust in us over the years. We believe that care must extend beyond our wards and into the daily lives of the people around us."*

Lilavati Hospital is a best-in-class tertiary care centre with state-of-the-art facilities and a deep legacy of ethical, transparent, and charitable medical care.

Through its integrated approach spanning treatment, research, education, and community service, the hospital remains committed to delivering affordable healthcare of international standards, while ensuring that compassion remains at the heart of every patient interaction. By continuing to create comfortable spaces for its patients, caregivers, and the wider community, the hospital reiterates its people-centric care that places equal emphasis on empathy, dignity, and patient well-being.

For more information, contact

Lilavati Hospital & Research Centre is a premier multi-specialty tertiary care hospital of India and have been acknowledged globally as the centre of medical excellence. Over the years, Lilavati Hospital & Research Centre has developed unmatched trust with its patients based on a strong foundation which includes state-of-the-art facilities, best medical expertise, research, education and charitable endeavors. We are extremely proud that today, we serve patients from all walks of life and not only national but also international.

Our journey began with a humble opening in 1997 with 10 beds and initially 22 doctors. Today, we have increased our capacity several folds and have a total of 330 beds with one of the largest Intensive Care Units (ICUs), 12 Operation Theatres with advanced facilities, more than 375 consultants and manpower of nearly 2700 employees. Lilavati Hospital and Research Centre attends to nearly 300 In-patients and 1,500 Out-patients daily.

Accredited by national and international quality bodies, Lilavati Hospital upholds the highest standards of safety, ethics, and innovation, guided by its motto, "More than Healthcare, Human Care."

Antara Senior Care Home in Noida Becomes First in City to Get NABH Accreditation

Antara Senior Care is now the only assisted living provider with NABH-accredited care homes in north India

The Antara Care Home in Noida has become the first senior care facility in the district to be awarded the NABH (National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers) Care Home Accreditation—a set of safety and quality norms designed specifically to standardise care delivery in residential facilities.

Noida Care Home in Sector 66 is the second facility in the Antara network to receive NABH Care Home Accreditation

For Antara Senior Care, India's only fully integrated senior care ecosystem, this is the second facility in its network to receive this prestigious recognition, and a step toward its goal of bringing all its care homes under this framework. Antara Senior Care is the only assisted living provider with NABH accredited care homes in north India. In 2025, its Gurugram Care Home became the first facility in India to receive this certification from the country's apex healthcare quality. This reflects the organisation's continued dedication to excellence in personalised ageing-related care, transparent operations, family involvement in care decisions, and measurable outcomes meeting the highest national standard in senior care.

Ishaan Khanna, CEO, Antara Assisted Care Services, said, *"Choosing a care home for a loved one is ultimately a decision made on trust. The NABH accreditation offers that trust as proof. It means that here care is delivered through defined processes, by qualified and trained professionals, against standards that are independently verified. For us, this certification reflects our long-standing belief that quality senior care cannot be left to chance. Our goal is to extend this standard across our care home network in Delhi-NCR, Bangalore and Chennai, and continue raising the bar for what families should expect from senior care in India."*

As part of the accreditation process, the Antara Care Home in Noida Sector 66 was assessed across several critical parameters including resident safety, quality of life measures, clinical governance, staff qualifications and training, medication management, infection prevention and control, physical infrastructure standards, including round-the-clock availability of essentials like potable water and electricity, installation and periodic inspection of safety devices.

This rigorous evaluation also encompassed several health and safety parameters, including bio-medical waste management systems, regular facility rounds with documented inspections, emergency preparedness and rights of residents through grievance redressal mechanisms.

Prem Singh Rathore, Chief Quality Officer, Antara Senior Care, said, *"Senior care in India has evolved in an informal and fragmented manner. It's largely unregulated with wide variations in quality and safety delivered. NABH accreditation represents an important shift toward making ecosystems more structured, accountable, scalable with readiness to deliver standardised care. It ensures that care delivery is guided by documented processes, measurable standards, and continuous quality improvement across functions. Achieving this accreditation reflects Antara's commitment to operational excellence and to building systems that can deliver safe and dignified care consistently for every resident."*

India is on the cusp of a significant demographic shift that is reshaping the country's care needs. Its senior population is set to more than double to ~350 million by 2050 (JLL-ASLI report, 2024) with the 80+ population growing by 279% in the same timeframe (UNFPA). To improve health span alongside rising lifespan, the need for structured, reliable, and professionally managed senior care infrastructure is becoming urgent.

But India's senior care ecosystem remains largely fragmented and unregulated leading to inconsistencies in care delivery.

The adoption of NABH Care Homes Accreditation Standards, introduced by the country's apex healthcare accreditation body, is a decisive step towards building institutional preparedness to meet India's rising need for safe and high-quality environments that deliver dignified care.

Antara remains committed to redefining senior care by combining medical expertise with an environment designed for dignity, compassion, and trust.

The 53-bed Antara Care Home in Noida's Sector 66 offers short-, medium- and long-term living solutions for seniors who need assistance with activities of daily living as an outcome of ageing; the FFRO-licenced facility also offers short-term, clinically supervised, structured care after surgery or acute illness. It has state-of the-art infrastructure for transition care, an engaging social calendar designed to alleviate loneliness and promote mental alertness, 24x7 nursing, specialist doctor support, geriatric-trained teams, in-house kitchen offering specialised meals planned by dieticians, physiotherapy, and occupational therapy.

For more information about Antara Care Homes or to schedule a visit, contact +919811441111 or visit www.antaraseniorcare.com.

About Antara Senior Care

Launched in 2013, Antara is the senior-care business of Max India Limited, part of the $7-billion Max Group. It is an integrated ecosystem for senior care, operating in two main lines of business – Residences for Seniors and Assisted Care Services. Antara's first senior residential community in Dehradun, comprising nearly 200 families, caters to their social, recreational, educational, wellness, and health-related needs. In the near future, it will open its second senior living community in Noida's Sector-150, with families moving into the 340 apartments built in the first phase. Expanding its footprint in Gurugram, Antara will manage senior living residences, dedicated spaces for senior living, and primary healthcare services at Estate 360 and Estate 361, developed by Max Estates. Antara's Assisted Care Services include Care Homes, Memory Care Home, Care at Home and AGEasy. This line of business caters to seniors, who need more immersive interventions in their daily lives due to medical or age-related issues.

With eight facilities and 485 beds across Gurugram, Noida, Bengaluru and Chennai, Care Homes provide long-term care to seniors who require constant medical and nursing supervision, and short-term care services for the recuperation of seniors. Its Care at Home services, offered in Delhi NCR, Bengaluru and Chennai, provide well-equipped, trained professionals offering care to seniors inside their home's comfort. AGEasy, an online and offline store focusing on senior-specific products and solutions to manage chronic health conditions at home, has touched over 6.5 lakh lives since inception in 2023.

Fortis Institute of Minimally Invasive Brain & Spine Surgery Inaugurated at The First Annual Neurosciences Conclave in Mumbai

The initiative brought together leading experts to discuss advancements in neurology, neurosurgery, and minimally invasive spine care, spotlighting latest clinical advances

The Fortis Institute of Minimally Invasive Brain & Spine Surgery was inaugurated at the first annual neurosciences conclave hosted by Fortis Institute of Neurosciences, Mumbai, on March 21st & 22nd 2026.

The state-of-the-art institute, designed to cater to patients across the spectrum of neurological and spine disorders, marks a significant step in advancing specialized neuro care for the city of Mumbai.

FORTIS INSTITUTE

Your Life. Powered By Learning

The institute will be helmed by Dr. Jayesh Sardhara, Director – Dept. of Minimally Invasive Brain & Spine Surgery, Fortis Hospitals Mumbai. The inauguration ceremony was graced by Dr. Bishnu Panighari, Group Head – MSOG, Fortis Healthcare; Dr. S. Narayani, Business Head, Fortis Hospitals Maharashtra; and Dr. Vishal Beri, Facility Director, Fortis Hospital Mulund, along with other clinicians and administrative leaders.

(C) Dr Vishal Beri, Dr Jayesh Sardhara, Dr Bishnu Panigrahi & Dr S. Narayani with clinicians at the launch of Fortis Institute of Minimally Invasive Brain & Spine Surgery, Mumbai

The two-day conclave, titled 'Current Update on Advanced Neurosciences', brought together leading clinicians, surgeons, academicians, and healthcare professionals across the country to deliberate on the latest advancements and evolving practices across neurology, neurosurgery, and minimally invasive spine care.

At the conclave, Fortis Hospitals Mumbai aim to provide a comprehensive platform for knowledge exchange, focusing on real-world clinical challenges and practical solutions across neurology, neurosurgery, neuro-intervention, neuro-oncology, spine surgery, and neuro-critical care.

The field of neurosciences continues to witness rapid evolution driven by technological advancements, minimally invasive approaches, multidisciplinary collaboration, and evidence-based care. The two-day conclave aims to provide a comprehensive platform for knowledge exchange, focusing on real-world clinical challenges and practical solutions in neurology, neurosurgery, neuro-intervention, neuro-oncology, spine surgery, and neuro-critical care.

The scientific program features expert-led sessions including keynote lectures, surgical video demonstrations, panel discussions, consensus statements, and interactive Q&A forums. Key highlights include discussions on

- Advanced Stroke & Neurocritical care
- Emerging Technologies & advances in Neurology
- Neuro-Oncology & Brain Tumor Surgery
- Advances in Spine Surgery
- Interactive Stroke & Hemorrhage
- Future Directions of Neurosciences
- Perioperative Neurosciences & Spine Interface
- Clinical Decision-making in Neurosurgery

Dr. Jayesh Sardhara, Director – Dept. of Minimally Invasive Brain & Spine Surgery, Fortis Hospitals Mumbai, and Organizing President & CME Convener, said, *"The field of neurosciences is advancing rapidly, and it's important for clinicians to keep pace with the latest innovations and evidence-based practices.*

Through this conference, we aim to create a platform that brings experts together, encourages the exchange of ideas, and helps improve patient outcomes. Minimally invasive neurosurgery represents the future of our specialty, where precision, technology, and innovation allow us to treat complex neurological conditions with smaller incisions, less tissue disruption, and faster recovery for patients."

Dr. Vishal Beri, Facility Director, Fortis Hospital, Mulund, added, *"This conference reflects our commitment to advancing clinical excellence and building strong academic ecosystems. By bringing together experts from diverse neuro focus areas, we are enabling meaningful discussions that translate into better, more integrated care for patients with simple to complex neurological conditions."*

Dr. S. Narayani, Business Head – Fortis Hospitals Maharashtra, said, *"At Fortis Mumbai, we continuously strive to strengthen platforms that drive knowledge-sharing and innovation in healthcare. This conference is a significant step in reinforcing our focus on advanced neurosciences and supporting the medical community with insights that enhance both clinical practice and patient care delivery."*

The conference saw participation from a wide range of healthcare professionals across neuro-focused and neuro-allied specialties, encouraging interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration. With a strong focus on practical insights and consensus-building, the initiative underscores Fortis Healthcare's commitment to advancing neuroscience care in India.

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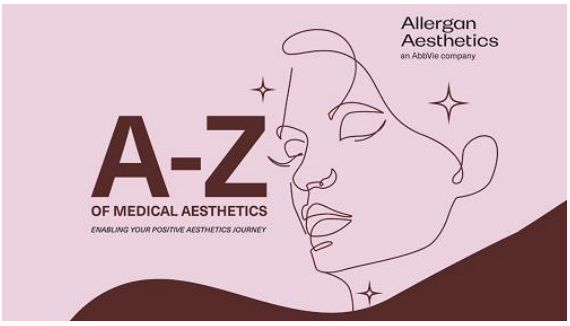
Allergan Aesthetics Helps Empower Consumers through Education as Medical Aesthetic Treatment Demand Grows

Allergan Aesthetics, an AbbVie company, has announced the launch of A–Z of Medical Aesthetics, a consumer education initiative to improve understanding of aesthetics and help empower consumers in making informed choices throughout their aesthetic treatment journey.



#A2ZOfMedicalAesthetics is a consumer education initiative by Allergan Aesthetics, an AbbVie company to empower them make informed choices in their aesthetic treatment journey

Allergan Aesthetics
an AbbVie company

With growing interest in medical aesthetic treatments across India, many consumers actively seek information online. While a lot of information available can be complex and difficult to navigate, Allergan Aesthetics has proactively addressed this by introducing the A–Z of Medical Aesthetics, providing consumers with a reliable and easily understood source of guidance.

The initiative addresses common consumer concerns and treatment options within medical aesthetics, presenting information in an accessible and straightforward way. By enhancing consumer understanding, the program seeks to foster more meaningful and productive discussions between consumers and aesthetic healthcare professionals.

As medical aesthetics becomes an integral part of many consumers self-care and confidence journeys, being well-informed is more important than ever. Empowered consumers who understand their options can approach treatments with confidence and clarity, enabling aesthetic physicians to focus on delivering personalized care and meaningful guidance.

Commenting on the initiative, **Kalyan Sattaru, Country Manager Allergan Aesthetics India**, said, "*As medical aesthetics continues to evolve in India, access to credible, science-backed information becomes critical. With A–Z of Medical Aesthetics, we are setting a benchmark for responsible consumer education by helping address misinformation and improve awareness. Our intent is to empower consumers to make informed choices and enable more meaningful, transparent consultations between patients and aesthetic physicians—ultimately elevating the standard of aesthetic care in the country.*"

Siddharth Hundoo, Head – Marketing, Allergan Aesthetics India, said, "*There is a growing need for genuine, easy-to-understand information in medical aesthetics.*

A–Z of Medical Aesthetics is our effort to support consumers with reliable knowledge so they can have more informed and confident discussions with their doctors. When patients come prepared and aware, it helps doctors too, making consultations more effective and transparent."

With the launch of A–Z of Medical Aesthetics, Allergan Aesthetics, an AbbVie company continues its commitment to responsible education and consumer empowerment, ensuring that consumers have access to authentic information especially when misinformation is significant.

Consumers can access and download A–Z of Medical Aesthetics to begin their learning journey and take a more informed approach to aesthetic consultations by visiting this link here: allerganaesthetics.co.in/az.

About Allergan Aesthetics*
At Allergan Aesthetics, an AbbVie company, we develop, manufacture, and market a portfolio of leading aesthetics brands and products. Our aesthetics portfolio includes facial injectables, body contouring, plastics, skin care, and more. Our goal is to consistently provide our customers with innovation, education, exceptional service, and a commitment to excellence, all with a personal touch.
For more information, visit allerganaesthetics.co.in.

About AbbVie*
AbbVie's mission is to discover and deliver innovative medicines that solve serious health issues today and address the medical challenges of tomorrow. We strive to have a remarkable impact on people's lives across several key therapeutic areas: immunology, oncology, neuroscience, eye care, virology, women's health and gastroenterology, in addition to products and services across its Allergan Aesthetics* portfolio.

KEM Hospital **to Introduce Robotic Surgery Facility in Major Upgrade Push**

In a significant move toward advanced healthcare delivery, KEM Hospital is set to establish a **multi-speciality robotic surgery facility**, marking a major leap in surgical innovation.

The directive came following a high-level inspection by municipal authorities, who emphasized modernization of surgical infrastructure and digital systems. The hospital is also upgrading its Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) to improve patient flow and operational efficiency.

The addition of robotic-assisted surgery is expected to enhance precision, reduce recovery time, and improve clinical outcomes, especially in complex procedures such as oncology, urology, and cardiology.

Authorities have also recommended centralization of critical services like operating theatres and diagnostic labs, enabling smoother patient navigation across departments.

With increasing patient load and demand for advanced procedures, this initiative positions KEM Hospital among India's leading public-sector institutions adopting next-gen healthcare technologies.

This development reflects a broader national trend toward integrating robotics and automation into hospital ecosystems.

Telangana Government to Add 79 Dialysis Centres Across State Hospitals

In a major expansion of public healthcare services, the Telangana government has approved **79 new dialysis centres** across government hospitals.

The initiative will add over 400 dialysis beds, significantly improving access to life-saving treatment for patients suffering from chronic kidney disease, particularly in rural and underserved areas. The expansion follows a hub-and-spoke model, with premier institutions such as Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences and Osmania General Hospital serving as supervisory hubs. Currently, more than 7,500 patients benefit from dialysis services under existing public-private partnerships, and the new expansion aims to ensure treatment availability within a 25 km radius.

Private partners will manage infrastructure, equipment, and manpower, while the government ensures accessibility and affordability.

This move is expected to significantly reduce patient travel burden and strengthen decentralized healthcare delivery in the state.

Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences **Launches Dedicated Cancer ICU Facility**

Strengthening oncology care infrastructure, Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences has inaugurated a **16-bed advanced ICU dedicated to cancer patients**.

This specialized facility is designed to provide critical care support for patients in advanced stages of cancer who require intensive monitoring and life-support systems. The ICU is equipped with modern life-saving technologies and staffed by trained oncology and critical care specialists.

The launch comes at a time when India is witnessing a rising burden of cancer cases, necessitating enhanced tertiary care infrastructure. Hospital officials emphasized that this initiative will reduce patient referrals to metro cities and improve survival outcomes through timely intervention.

This marks a crucial step toward strengthening regional cancer care capabilities and improving access to specialized treatment.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Pune Cantonment General Hospital **Sees Surgical Boost with AFMC Support**

A remarkable turnaround has been observed at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Pune Cantonment General Hospital following support from the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC).

Specialist doctors deputed by Armed Forces Medical College have enabled the hospital to significantly scale up its surgical capabilities.

The hospital is now performing nearly **50 surgeries per month**, compared to minimal activity earlier due to a shortage of specialists.

Patients are benefiting from free treatments under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, improving access for economically weaker sections.

Daily outpatient footfall has also increased substantially, reflecting growing trust in the facility.

This collaboration highlights the importance of institutional partnerships in strengthening public healthcare delivery systems.

Thane Civil Hospital **Set to Open with 900 Beds & Helipad Facility**

Maharashtra is set to witness a major healthcare infrastructure boost with the upcoming launch of Thane Civil Hospital.

The new facility will feature **900 beds and a rooftop helipad**, enabling rapid emergency response through air ambulance services.

The hospital will also house advanced diagnostic and treatment technologies, including MRI, CT scan, chemotherapy, and radiotherapy units. Designed to serve both Thane and neighboring regions, the hospital aims to reduce patient load on existing urban facilities.

Authorities have confirmed that the project is in its final stages, with operational readiness expected soon.

This development underscores the government's focus on building high-capacity, future-ready public healthcare institutions.

Sadar Hospital Ranchi Recognized as Top Performer Under Ayushman Bharat

Sadar Hospital Ranchi has emerged as a leading performer under the **Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)** scheme.

The hospital has been recognized for its excellence in delivering accessible and quality healthcare services to beneficiaries under the national health insurance program.

State authorities credited the achievement to the hospital's dedicated staff, efficient patient management, and consistent service quality.

The recognition positions Sadar Hospital as a model public healthcare institution, setting benchmarks for others across the country.

The hospital's success highlights the growing impact of government schemes in strengthening India's healthcare delivery system.

It also reflects the increasing role of district-level hospitals in providing advanced care services.

Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Ltd. **Accelerates Expansion with ₹2,500 Crore Investment Plan**

India's leading private healthcare provider, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Ltd., has announced an aggressive expansion strategy with an investment of over ₹2,500 crore to build new hospitals and upgrade existing facilities.

The expansion will focus on Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, where demand for quality healthcare infrastructure is rapidly increasing. Apollo plans to add more than 2,000 beds over the next two years.

The company is also investing heavily in digital healthcare, including telemedicine platforms and AI-enabled diagnostics to improve patient outcomes.

This move is expected to strengthen Apollo's leadership position in India's private healthcare market, which is witnessing strong post-pandemic growth.

The expansion aligns with the group's long-term vision of making advanced healthcare accessible across India.

Industry analysts believe this investment will significantly boost revenue growth and market share for Apollo.

Fortis Healthcare Limited **Reports Strong Revenue Growth Driven by Occupancy Surge**

Fortis Healthcare Limited has reported a strong financial performance, driven by higher occupancy rates and increased demand for elective surgeries. The hospital chain witnessed a notable rise in average revenue per occupied bed (ARPOB), reflecting improved case mix and premium service offerings. Fortis has also been focusing on operational efficiency, optimizing costs while expanding high-margin specialties such as oncology and cardiology.

The company is actively investing in infrastructure upgrades and new technology to enhance patient care and clinical outcomes.

Additionally, Fortis continues to strengthen its presence in North India, where it sees significant growth potential.

This performance underscores the resilience of India's hospital sector and its steady recovery trajectory.

Narayana Health **Expands Affordable Care Model with New Multispecialty Hospitals**

Narayana Health is expanding its footprint with new multispecialty hospitals aimed at delivering affordable, high-quality healthcare.

The group is focusing on underserved regions, leveraging its cost-efficient model to provide advanced treatments at lower prices. Narayana Health's expansion strategy includes increasing bed capacity and introducing specialized services such as cardiac sciences and oncology.

The company is also integrating digital tools to improve patient management and operational efficiency.

This initiative reinforces Narayana Health's mission of making healthcare accessible to all sections of society. The expansion is expected to drive both patient volumes and financial performance.

Max Healthcare Institute Ltd. **Invests in Super-Specialty Capacity Expansion Across NCR**

Max Healthcare Institute Ltd. is strengthening its presence in the National Capital Region with significant investments in super-specialty services.

The company plans to expand bed capacity and introduce advanced treatment facilities in oncology, neurology, and organ transplantation.

Max Healthcare is also focusing on enhancing patient experience through digital transformation and infrastructure modernization.

The expansion aims to cater to the growing demand for tertiary care services in urban India. The group continues to maintain high occupancy levels, reflecting strong brand trust and clinical excellence.

This strategic move is expected to further solidify Max Healthcare's position as a premium healthcare provider.

Aster DM Healthcare **Strengthens India Focus with Strategic Investments**

Aster DM Healthcare is increasing its focus on the Indian market through strategic investments and expansion initiatives.

The company is planning to add new hospitals and upgrade existing facilities to enhance service capabilities.

Aster DM Healthcare is also exploring partnerships and acquisitions to accelerate growth in key regions.

The company's India business is expected to become a major revenue driver, supported by rising healthcare demand.

Digital health and patient-centric care models are key focus areas for Aster's growth strategy.

This shift reflects a broader trend of global healthcare players prioritizing India as a high-growth market.

Manipal Hospitals **Pursues Aggressive Acquisition Strategy to Expand Footprint**

Manipal Hospitals is actively pursuing acquisitions to strengthen its presence across India.

The hospital chain is evaluating multiple acquisition opportunities, particularly in metro and Tier 1 cities.

manipalhospitals
LIFE'S ON

This strategy aims to rapidly increase bed capacity and enhance its network of multispecialty hospitals. Manipal Hospitals is also investing in advanced medical technologies and specialized care services.

The company's growth strategy is focused on scaling operations while maintaining high clinical standards. These efforts are expected to position Manipal as one of the top hospital chains in India.

Medanta - The Medicity **Expands Advanced Care Services with New Facilities**

Medanta - The Medicity is expanding its advanced care services with the addition of new specialized facilities. The hospital is investing in cutting-edge technologies for oncology, transplant, and critical care services.

Medanta is also focusing on international patient services, strengthening its position in medical tourism. The expansion aims to enhance clinical outcomes and patient satisfaction. The hospital continues to attract top medical talent, further boosting its reputation for excellence. This development reinforces Medanta's status as a leading tertiary care provider in India.

KIMS Hospitals **Expands South India Presence with New Hospital Launches**

KIMS Hospitals is expanding its footprint in South India with the launch of new hospitals.

The group is focusing on cities with high growth potential, aiming to increase accessibility to quality healthcare.

KIMS is also investing in advanced diagnostic and treatment technologies to enhance service offerings. The expansion is expected to significantly increase bed capacity and patient volumes.

KIMS HOSPITALS™

The company continues to maintain strong financial performance, driven by efficient operations and high occupancy rates.

This move positions KIMS as a key player in the rapidly growing South Indian healthcare market.

Modernizing Infusion: The AKAS INFUMAX 7007

The **AKAS INFUMAX 7007** moves away from the traditional LED segment displays we've used for years, opting instead for a far more detailed monitoring interface. While LEDs were limited in the data they could show at once, this new **2.4-inch colour display** lets you see the full therapy status on a single screen. The text is sharp and high contrast, making it easy to read from across the room so you don't have to stop what you're doing to check the pump's settings or sub-menus.

On the safety front, we've included a specialized bubble detector to catch any air in the line during drug delivery. The **AKAS INFUMAX 7007** is built to handle the requirements of any patient group, from neonates to adults. It's a practical, reliable upgrade that brings much needed clarity to bedside infusion therapy.

Why Choose AKAS

With decades of innovation in infusion technology, AKAS continues to push boundaries—delivering cutting-edge drug delivery systems backed by engineering excellence, clinical insight, and global quality standards.

Who We Are

An AS 9001:2000 certified manufacturer specializing in critical care devices, AKAS stands at the forefront of world-class infusion systems and syringe pumps for hospitals and healthcare institutions.

From its humble beginnings in 1996 in Tiruchirapalli, founded by two visionary engineers, AKAS has grown into one of India's leading infusion pump manufacturers.

AKAS® INFUSIONS

Today, with state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities in Tiruchirapalli and Chennai, and a presence in 15+ countries, AKAS continues to expand its global footprint. What truly sets AKAS apart is its multidisciplinary team—a powerful collaboration of engineers, R&D specialists, and medical professionals—driving innovation that meets the highest standards of performance, safety, and reliability.

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LigoLab Reports AI and Automation Takeaways from LigoVerse 2026 Conference

Story source/Credit: LogLab

Laboratory leaders gathered in Los Angeles to discuss practical applications of artificial intelligence and workflow automation in clinical lab operations.

LigoLab, a laboratory informatics company based in Glendale, California, has reported key findings from LigoVerse 2026, a two-day conference held in Hollywood, Los Angeles, focused on the role of artificial intelligence (AI) and automation in clinical laboratory operations.

The event brought together clinical laboratory leaders, technology partners, and industry experts to examine how integrated informatics platforms can help laboratories manage rising test volumes, staffing constraints, and shifting regulatory requirements.

"Laboratories today face unprecedented operational challenges, from increasing test volumes to staffing constraints and evolving regulatory requirements," says Suren Avunjian, chief executive officer of LigoLab, in a release. "LigoVerse 2026 provided a forum for laboratory professionals to explore practical applications of automation and intelligent workflow management while sharing insights from real-world operations."

Shifting the Role of the Laboratory Information System

A central theme at LigoVerse 2026 was the evolving function of the laboratory information system (LIS).

Historically, LIS platforms have served primarily as systems of record—storing results, documentation, and audit trails. According to discussions at the event, laboratory leaders emphasized that these systems must increasingly act as systems of action, supporting operational coordination, automating repetitive tasks, identifying bottlenecks, and delivering workflow guidance.

Participants examined how AI can augment laboratory operations without replacing human expertise. AI was described at the conference as a form of "digital labor" that assists laboratory professionals by streamlining routine administrative tasks and enabling faster access to operational insights.

"Laboratories generate significant amounts of data daily, but much of it remains underutilized," Avunjian says in a release. "Artificial intelligence offers a way to activate this data, helping laboratory teams manage complexity and focus on tasks that require human judgment."

Conference Sessions Covered Workflows, Automation, and Revenue Cycle

The two-day event combined strategic discussions with hands-on demonstrations. Day one focused on industry trends, regulatory updates, and case studies from laboratories using integrated LIS and revenue cycle management (RCM) platforms.

Day two emphasized practical learning, featuring sessions on workflow automation, LIS configuration, AI-assisted order entry, case distribution optimization, peer review workflows, and voice-enabled documentation tools.

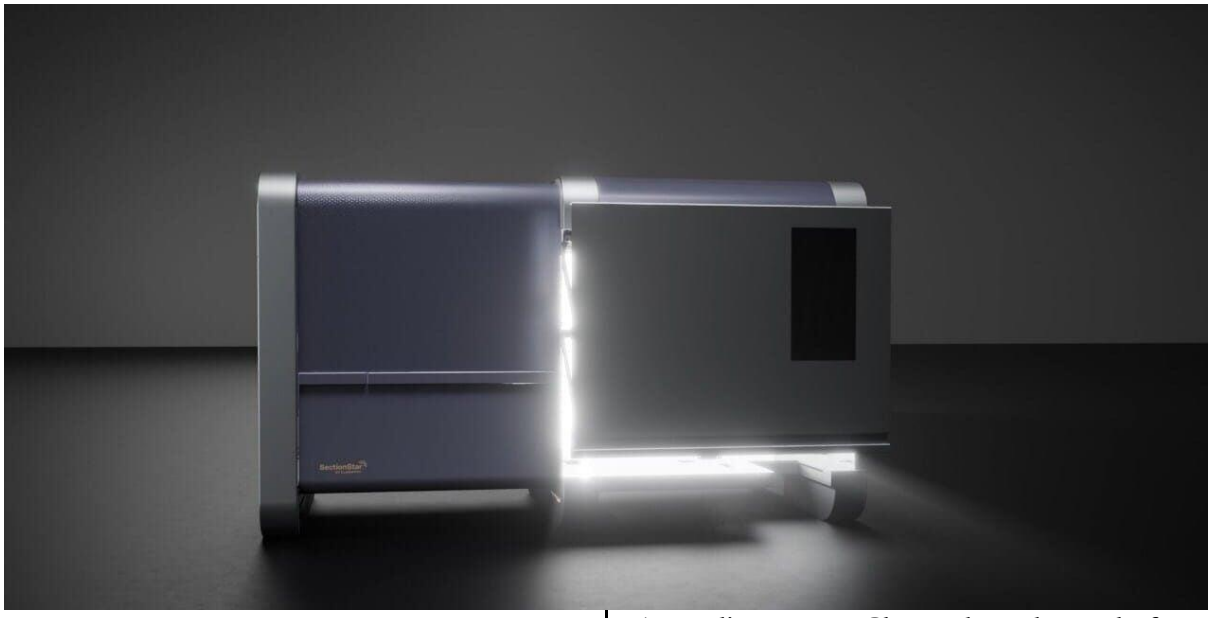
A recurring theme across sessions was the importance of linking laboratory operations with financial management.

As reimbursement landscapes shift, laboratory leaders at LigoVerse 2026 emphasized that a connected informatics platform provides visibility into both operational and financial performance, enabling teams to monitor processes, identify inefficiencies, and adjust workflows accordingly.

Peer Exchange and Collaborative Learning

Peer exchange sessions allowed laboratory leaders to share operational lessons and implementation strategies. Attendees discussed approaches for coordinating technical and administrative workflows, managing high-volume testing environments, and integrating automation without disrupting existing laboratory practices.

Industry experts at the conference noted that laboratories achieving operational clarity are those that leverage data integration and automation while fostering a culture of data-driven decision-making. Participants agreed that laboratories must move beyond fragmented systems toward coordinated platforms that deliver actionable insights across the laboratory lifecycle. According to event organizers, collaboration is a key component in building resilient laboratory operations capable of adapting to industry changes.



Clarapath Releases Updated Robotic Microtomy Platform for Clinical Histology Labs

Story source/Credit: Clarapath

The latest version of SectionStar was developed with histotechnologists to address staffing pressures and rising case volumes in anatomic pathology.

Clarapath has launched the latest release of its SectionStar platform, a Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-registered robotic microtomy system designed to improve consistency, efficiency, and quality control in clinical histology workflows. The updated platform is now being deployed at select laboratory sites across the country.

Built on the foundation of the original SectionStar system, the new release was developed in collaboration with histotechnologists and pathology laboratories to address the technical demands of tissue sectioning.

According to Clarapath, the platform introduces enhancements across hardware, software, and user experience, with the goal of helping laboratories improve efficiency, consistency, and turnaround times amid growing case volumes and staffing challenges.

"This version of the SectionStar platform represents a major step forward for Clarapath and for the clinical laboratories we serve," says Eric Feinstein, president and CEO of Clarapath, in a release. "By continuing to listen to the challenges our customers face, we are able to innovate in ways that meet the operational and regulatory demands of clinical histology while delivering meaningful improvements in reliability and ease of use."

The company positions the platform as a support tool for skilled histotechnologists rather than a replacement for their expertise.

"Automation in histology isn't about replacing expertise—it's about supporting it," says Matthew Claster, chief business officer at Clarapath, in a release.

"With the innovative products we are developing at Clarapath, laboratories can deploy rigorously tested automation platforms that help deliver consistent, repeatable sections while allowing skilled histotechnologists to focus on higher-value work."

SectionStar is FDA-registered and listed for clinical use. Installations are currently underway at qualifying customer sites. Clarapath showcased the platform at the USCAP 115th Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, in March.

Biocartis Earns European Certification for Colorectal Cancer Companion Diagnostic Test

Story source/Credit: Biocartis

The Idylla CDx MSI Test detects microsatellite instability in colorectal cancer tissue in under three hours, supporting therapy selection for eligible patients.

Biocartis has received Class C companion diagnostic (CDx) certification under the European Union's In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Device Regulation (IVDR) for its Idylla CDx MSI Test, the company announced. The test is indicated as an aid to identify adult patients with microsatellite instability-high (MSI-H) **metastatic colorectal cancer (CRC)** who may benefit from treatment with nivolumab in combination with ipilimumab. It marks the second CDx approval Biocartis has received under the IVDR, following the May 2025 certification of the Idylla EGFR Mutation Test, according to the company.

Designed for use on the Biocartis Idylla™ Platform, the test qualitatively detects MSI-H and microsatellite stable (MSS) status in CRC tissue samples using a single-use cartridge. According to Biocartis, the workflow requires less than three minutes of hands-on time and delivers results in under three hours.

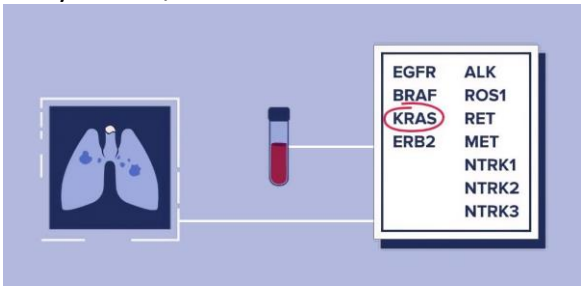
"In May 2025, we received IVDR certification for the Idylla EGFR Mutation Test and have now expanded our IVDR-approved portfolio with the Idylla CDx MSI Test," says Roger Moody, chief executive officer of Biocartis, in a release.

"Building on its FDA approval in the United States, the Idylla CDx MSI Test is now also empowering clinicians across Europe with rapid and reliable results that support groundbreaking therapy selection for CRC patients, enabling timely and informed treatment decisions when every moment counts."

The test has been commercially available in the US following **approval** by the Food and Drug Administration under P250005. The IVDR-certified version will be available soon to customers across Europe and additional regions where IVDR regulations apply, according to the company.

CellCarta Secures Exclusive Global Rights to Deploy Aspyre Lung Assay in Lung Cancer Clinical Trials

Story source/Credit: Cell Carta



The partnership is designed to streamline targeted genomic testing for sponsors running biomarker-driven lung cancer trials.

CellCarta and Biofidelity have announced an expanded multi-year global strategic partnership that grants CellCarta exclusive rights to deploy Biofidelity's Aspyre Lung assay in clinical trial settings worldwide.

Building on an initial collaboration announced in early 2025, the agreement is intended to give trial sponsors a single, coordinated partner for Aspyre Lung deployment, reducing the complexity of managing multiple organizations for the same platform.

CellCarta

Aspyre Lung is a targeted assay purpose-built for lung cancer. It detects actionable genomic alterations in both tissue and blood samples while requiring minimal specimen input. According to the companies, the assay delivers results in four to five days, achieves a success rate as high as 99%, and is more cost-effective compared to commonly used broad next-generation sequencing (NGS).

The announcement comes as broad NGS panels—frequently used for biomarker-guided patient enrollment and treatment decisions in lung cancer trials—face scrutiny for their operational limitations.

According to the companies, broad NGS panels can take three weeks or more to return results, and 25% of lung cancer samples fail NGS testing entirely.

"Becoming the exclusive clinical trial partner for Aspyre Lung is a significant evolution in our partnership with Biofidelity," says Robin Grimwood, senior vice president of genomics at CellCarta, in a release. "With this agreement, we are establishing a more coordinated framework for deploying Aspyre Lung in global clinical trials and positioning ourselves well for future collaborations on emerging assays, such as Enspyre, Biofidelity's minimal residual disease (MRD) technology."

Reducing Operational Friction for Trial Sponsors

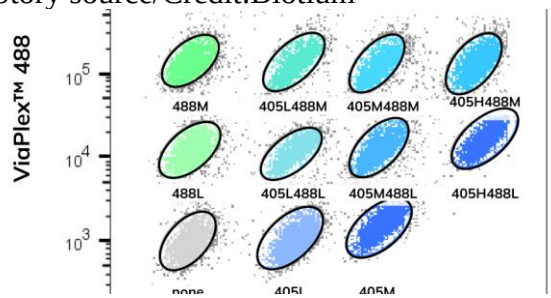
The expanded partnership is structured to streamline how targeted genomic technologies are integrated into global clinical studies. By centralizing assay expertise and clinical trial delivery under one partner, the agreement aims to reduce operational friction for sponsors incorporating targeted testing into their programs, according to the companies.

"This expanded partnership reflects our shared commitment to simplifying how targeted genomic technologies are integrated into clinical trials," says Barnaby Balmforth, chief executive officer at Biofidelity, in a release. "CellCarta brings a proven track record of quality, reliability, and operational excellence in global clinical trial testing. Together, we aim to reduce barriers to adoption and enable sponsors to more easily incorporate targeted lung cancer testing into their trials."

Photo caption: ASPYRE Lung identifies actionable genomic alterations across key lung cancer biomarkers — including EGFR, ALK, KRAS, BRAF, and more — from both tissue and blood samples, delivering results in 4–5 days. CellCarta now holds global exclusivity to deploy the assay in clinical trial settings.

Biotium's New Cell Barcoding Kit Allows Up to 15-Sample Multiplexing in a Single Flow Cytometry Tube

Story source/Credit:Biotium



The ViaPlex 2-Color Cell Barcoding Kit uses two reactive fluorescent dyes to combine up to 15 distinct cell populations in one tube, reducing reagent use and run time.

Biotium has released the ViaPlex 2-Color Cell Barcoding Kit, a **fluorescent cell barcoding** tool that allows researchers to label and pool up to 15 distinct cell populations into a single tube for **multiplex flow cytometry analysis**, according to a release from the Fremont, CA-based company.

The kit combines two cell-permeant reactive fluorescent dyes—ViaPlex 405 Barcoding Dye, optimized for the 405 nm laser/Pacific Blue filter, and ViaPlex 488 Barcoding Dye, optimized for the 488 nm laser/fluorescein isothiocyanate (FITC) filter—used at varying concentrations to generate a 15-plex barcoding matrix.

An optional 16th barcode can be incorporated using stain-specific compensation, according to the company.

Once cell populations are barcoded, they can be combined into a single tube for **antibody staining** and later distinguished during analysis. The approach reduces the number of individual samples that need to be run, lowering reagent consumption and shortening overall run times, according to the release.

"The ViaPlex Cell Barcoding Kit is an exciting new product that should be very useful for researchers doing drug screening or other cellular screening by flow," says Alexis Madrid, PhD, assistant director of Biotium's Bioscience department, in a release.

Workflow Flexibility and Live Cell Compatibility

A notable feature of the ViaPlex kit, according to Biotium, is that its barcoding process does not require fixation or permeabilization, enabling its use with **live cells**. Barcoding can be performed either before or after cell treatment, which Biotium says accommodates a wide range of experimental designs.

The kit is compatible with both surface and intracellular antibody staining workflows. The covalent dye labeling also remains stable if cells are subsequently fixed and permeabilized for intracellular detection, according to the company.

Addressing Throughput Demands in Drug Discovery and Immunology

As demand for faster and more cost-effective drug discovery and immunology workflows continues to rise, cell barcoding offers laboratories a way to increase throughput while maintaining data quality, according to the release. By pooling samples prior to staining, the technique also reduces technical variation between samples and improves sample-to-sample consistency, Biotium says.

The ViaPlex kit is designed for use with flow cytometry platforms equipped with 405 nm and 488 nm lasers and is compatible with high-throughput screening applications.
The release states that key advantages of the kit include:

- Combining up to 15 cell samples in a single staining reaction
- An optional 16th barcode with stain-specific compensation
- Reduced reagent use and fewer flow samples to run
- Improved sample-to-sample consistency
- Compatibility with surface and intracellular staining
- Live cell compatibility, with optional fixation after barcoding
- Stable covalent fluorescent dye labeling for clean population separation
- Optimized for the 405 nm (Pacific Blue) and 488 nm (FITC) channels

The ViaPlex 2-Color Cell Barcoding Kit expands Biotium's portfolio of flow cytometry reagents, which also includes validated antibodies with CF dyes against common immune targets and Live-or-Dye Fixable Viability Stains for dead cell labeling in 18 colors, according to the company.
PACIFIC BLUE is a registered trademark of Thermo Fisher Scientific. CF is a registered trademark of Biotium, Inc.

Seed Funding to Advance Biopsy Catchment Technology and Liquid Specimen Biorepository

A $4 million financing round will support development of a liquid specimen biorepository and expand biopsy catchment pilot programs at medical institutions across the US.

Virchow Medical has closed a $4 million seed financing round led by Cerberus Ventures to advance its biopsy specimen stewardship technologies and **expand access to precision oncology** diagnostics.

Chenny Zhang, managing director for Cerberus Ventures, will join the Virchow Board of Directors as part of the deal.
The capital will be used to complete the development of the Virchow Vault, described by the company as the world's first liquid specimen biorepository, and to deploy Biopsy Catchment pilot programs at additional medical institutions across the US.

The financing addresses a persistent challenge in clinical oncology molecular diagnostics: oncologists ordering genomic sequencing currently rely on formalin-fixed tissue obtained during biopsy procedures, which is frequently unavailable or insufficient in quantity and quality for downstream molecular testing.

According to the company, tens of thousands of dislodged tumor cells are typically discarded when the biopsy needle is disposed of following a procedure.

How the Crow's Nest System Works

Virchow's Crow's Nest Biopsy Catchment System is designed to capture residual tumor cells from used biopsy needles, converting what would otherwise be wasted material into Liquid Companion Specimens (LCSs) that can be used for molecular diagnostic testing. These specimens are then stored in the Virchow Vault liquid specimen biorepository for downstream analysis. Clinical data from concordance studies conducted at six US medical institutions—in which molecular testing results from standard formalin-fixed tissue specimens were compared to results from LCSs generated by the Crow's Nest system—suggest additional benefits from using the technology, according to the company. The data indicate that high-quality molecular samples recovered from residual cells can provide insight into treatment options beyond chemotherapy, including targeted immunotherapy, while potentially reducing the need for repeat patient biopsies.

"The backing of Cerberus Ventures enables us to accelerate the education of the oncology, pathology, radiology, and reference lab communities about the clinical and financial benefits of banking high-quality genetic material sourced from used biopsy needles," says Alexander Arrow, MD, chief executive officer of Virchow Medical, in a release.

"It's the best way to counteract tissue insufficiency, and Virchow has the technology and resources to harness that."

Physician Investors and AI Potential

In addition to Cerberus Ventures, the financing round includes investment from five individual physician users of the Crow's Nest system—among them pathologists and interventional radiologists—who participated based on their firsthand experience with the technology. Zhang cited the company's potential as a data platform in addition to its clinical utility.

"We see Virchow not just as a platform to improve cancer patient outcomes, but also as a differentiated data provider that can help accelerate AI benefits across the healthcare system," says Zhang, in a release. "We have been incredibly impressed with the Virchow team's experience and execution and look forward to this partnership in their next phase of growth."

The new funding positions Virchow to broaden institutional adoption of its biopsy catchment and specimen banking technologies at a time when tissue insufficiency remains a significant barrier to genomic profiling and precision oncology testing in clinical laboratories.

New England Biolabs Opens Applications for 2026 Passion in Science Awards

Story source/Credit: New England Biolab

The awards recognize scientists for contributions in mentorship, humanitarian service, environmental stewardship, and creativity.

New England Biolabs (NEB) is now accepting entries for the 2026 Passion in Science Awards. The program recognizes members of the scientific community who demonstrate a commitment to scientific mentorship, humanitarian service, environmental stewardship, and artistic or creative spirit.

Since the program was introduced in 2014, the company has recognized 54 scientists from around the world.

"The inspiring work and ethos embodied by these individuals are helping to shape the science of tomorrow.

We are thrilled to be hosting the Passion in Science Awards again this year," says Andy Bertera, executive director of marketing and sales at NEB, in a release.

Award Categories and Eligibility

Eligible entrants include scientists whose work exemplifies core values such as humility, passion, authenticity, and creativity. The awards are distributed across four specific categories:

- **Scientific Mentorship and Advocacy:** Recognizing those whose primary focus is to inspire the next generation of scientists.
- **Humanitarian Duty:** Honoring those who use their scientific background to improve the lives of others through service.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** Celebrating individuals who work to reduce the environmental impact of their research or laboratory operations.
- **Arts and Creative Spirit:** Recognizing scientists who use creativity to communicate scientific concepts or find inspiration at the intersection of art and science.

"The Passion in Science Award honors the philosophy that true creativity is found in the process of empowering others. It validates my life-long focus on developing the tools and creative frameworks, whether in Art or Science, that help my friends and colleagues achieve their own breakthroughs," says Michael Weiner, 2024 Passion in Science winner and founder of Abbratech and Precision Biotools, in a release.

Recognition and Timeline

Award recipients will be invited to the NEB campus in Ipswich, MA, at the company's expense. The visit includes an awards dinner, roundtable discussions, and seminars with other scientists who share similar interests.

Additionally, awardees will receive a $1,000 scholarship to further their work or a $1,000 donation to a charity of their choice.

The deadline for applications is May 29, 2026. NEB will announce the winners by July 24, 2026, and notify them via email. Scientists interested in the program can find more information regarding laboratory research and application requirements on the award website.

Clinical Trial to Evaluate Finger-Prick Blood Test for Alzheimer's Diagnosis

The study will analyze three key proteins to determine if blood-based biomarkers can provide an earlier and more accessible diagnostic method.

Recognition Health is delivering an international clinical trial to evaluate whether a finger-prick blood test can improve how Alzheimer's disease is diagnosed. Compared with current invasive and expensive diagnostic methods, this approach aims to provide a scalable solution for an earlier, more accurate, and affordable diagnostic method.

The clinical trial will enroll approximately 1,000 participants across the United Kingdom, the United States (US), and Canada. Participants in the trial include cognitively normal individuals, those with mild cognitive impairment, and those with mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease.

The trial also prioritizes inclusivity, with at least 25% of participants recruited from underrepresented communities to address historical gaps in research.

Comparing Biomarkers to Traditional Diagnostics

Researchers will analyze the blood samples for three key proteins associated with Alzheimer's disease. The results will be compared against traditional diagnostic methods, including amyloid positron emission tomography (PET) scans, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and traditional speech and cognitive assessments.

"Delivering this study underscores our commitment to advancing earlier and more precise diagnosis," says Emer MacSweeney, consultant neuroradiologist and CEO of Recognition Health, in a release.

"Biomarkers are transforming how we identify and treat Alzheimer's disease, and this research moves us closer to a future where early intervention is the normal practice, and not the exception."

Historically, clinicians have relied on costly brain imaging, invasive lumbar punctures, or the emergence of clinical symptoms, which often appear after the disease has significantly progressed.

Blood-based biomarker testing could be used before symptoms arise to identify individuals at risk, enabling preventive strategies and earlier intervention in primary and secondary care settings.

Impact on Amyloid-Targeting Therapies

The identification of biological processes before symptoms become disabling is essential for the effective use of new treatments.

"Biomarkers allow clinicians to identify the biological processes of Alzheimer's disease well before symptoms become disabling," says MacSweeney in a release. "This is critical, as amyloid-targeting therapies such as Kisunla and Leqembi are most effective—and currently only available—when cognitive symptoms are still mild."

The study is led by the Global Alzheimer's Platform Foundation, with funding from LifeArc and support from the UK Dementia Research Institute. Re:Cognition Health has experience in biomarker-led clinical trials and has administered more than 12,500 doses of amyloid-targeting therapies across the US and the United Kingdom.

Labcorp's FDA-Cleared Rapid Fentanyl Urine Test Launches

Story source/Credit: LabCorp

The test detects norfentanyl to identify exposure in acute care settings and is designed for use in CLIA-certified laboratories.

Labcorp has launched its Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-cleared rapid fentanyl urine test that provides results in 10 minutes.

The test is designed to help healthcare providers identify suspected fentanyl exposure in emergency departments, hospitals, and clinics.

The Labcorp Fentanyl Urine Visual Test detects norfentanyl, the primary metabolite of fentanyl. This metabolite can remain in urine for up to 48 hours after exposure, offering a longer detection window than fentanyl itself, which often clears within hours. The test is cleared for use by qualified professionals in Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)-certified settings.

"When clinicians suspect fentanyl exposure, they need quick, dependable answers to inform care," says Brian Caveney, chief medical and scientific officer at Labcorp, in a release. "The Labcorp Fentanyl Urine Visual Test delivers results in minutes, helping teams respond quickly and confidently in emergency departments, hospitals, and clinics—ultimately supporting better patient outcomes."

Data from Labcorp indicates that approximately 4% of **pre-employment screenings tested positive for fentanyl** between 2024 and 2025, while nearly 10% of patients receiving treatment for opioid use disorder tested positive.
The **Association for Diagnostics and Laboratory Medicine (ADLM) recently issued guidance** emphasizing the need for reliable **screening tools** in emergency care due to the prevalence of **synthetic opioids**.
Results from the visual test are intended for preliminary rapid screening and should be confirmed with laboratory methods, which is standard practice for rapid testing.

The product is available through Labcorp Point of Care, a division transitioning from its previous name, MEDTOX Diagnostics, throughout 2026.

This launch marks the first FDA-cleared rapid fentanyl test of its kind manufactured in the US, according to the company. The diagnostic tool aims to provide fast, actionable answers for clinicians managing patients in acute care environments.

Seegene Introduces New Data Platform and Automated PCR System

Story source/Credit: Seegene

The STAgora platform and CURECA system aim to integrate real-time data analytics with automated laboratory workflows for infectious disease monitoring.

Seegene introduced STAgora, a real-time data analytics platform, along with an updated model of its automated PCR workflow, CURECA, at the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID) Global 2026 meeting in Munich, Germany.

The company highlights an approach that combines automated testing infrastructure with aggregated statistical data to support a better understanding of population-level health trends. The platform is designed to connect PCR testing data in real time to provide a view of infectious disease patterns based on aggregated statistics.

Seegene

Real-Time Data Visualization

The STAgora platform utilizes aggregated testing data to provide real-time dashboards for laboratory professionals. These dashboards display comparative data between single-target and syndromic PCR testing, regional infection trends over time, pathogen-specific positivity rates, and co-infection patterns.

"STAgora is designed to connect PCR testing data generated around the world in real time and provide a clearer view of infectious disease trends based on aggregated statistics," says Young Seag Baeg, new business officer at Seegene, in a release.

The platform allows for the analysis of aggregated test results alongside regional epidemiological data, which the company says supports broader analysis of infection patterns across different healthcare settings. This approach aligns with syndromic PCR testing, which enables the simultaneous detection of multiple pathogens.

Automated Laboratory Workflows

In addition to the data platform, Seegene presented an enhanced model of CURECA, its automated PCR workflow system. The system features a modular structure designed to integrate various stages of molecular testing into a single workflow.

The automation process includes:

1. Preprocessing,
2. Nucleic acid extraction,
3. Amplification, and
4. Result processing.

The system is intended for use in real laboratory environments to streamline the path from sample to result. Many attendees at the conference engaged in discussions regarding the system's architecture and its applicability for future workflow automation.

"Interest in STAgora's real-time data capabilities and practical applications was strong throughout the event," says Daniel Shin, executive vice president and chief global sales and marketing officer at Seegene, in a release. "We plan to expand pilot programs and collaborative evaluations with healthcare and laboratory institutions to further evaluate the platform and support its potential future adoption." Seegene plans to further expand collaboration with clinical, academic, and research partners to support the implementation and validation of its data-driven diagnostics platform. The company previously introduced these technologies at other major international conferences, including the Association for Diagnostics and Laboratory Medicine. *Photo caption: Seegene introduces STAgora at the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID) Global 2026 meeting in Munich, Germany.*

Pathologie Friesland Adopts New Digital Pathology Platform for AI Integration

Story source/Credit: Patjologie

The regional laboratory will use the Concentriq platform to expand diagnostic services and streamline clinical workflows across its network.

Pathologie Friesland, a regional pathology laboratory in the Netherlands, is implementing **Proscia's Concentriq platform** to anchor its **digital pathology network** and prepare for future growth. The transition is intended to help the laboratory expand its diagnostic reach while establishing a foundation for **artificial intelligence (AI) applications**.

Serving the Dutch province of Friesland, the laboratory reviews hundreds of thousands of images annually for hospitals, general practitioners, and private clinics.

As demand for services evolves, the organization is centering its operations on a platform designed to onboard new sites and streamline **clinical operations**.

"While we have been largely digital for years, this is about what comes next," says Gijsbert Zijlstra, CEO at Pathologie Friesland, in a release. "Concentriq AP-Dx gives us a flexible foundation for growth. With the platform, our expanding team can deliver more diagnoses faster for the providers and patients who rely on us."

The laboratory selected the Concentriq AP-Dx platform following what it described as a "rigorous" evaluation. The system was named Global 2026 Best in KLAS for Digital Pathology in Europe, recognized for its interoperability and scalability. Pathologie Friesland will deploy the platform on Amazon Web Services to ensure reliability and data security.

"An important reason we chose Concentriq AP-Dx is the openness of the platform and the flexibility it offers to suit our specific needs and workflow," says Marcel Dijkstra, pathologist at Pathologie Friesland, in a release. "Concentriq AP-Dx gives us the freedom to build in a way that fits our practice and supports how we want to grow as a digital pathology network."

The platform serves as a hub for more than 130 AI applications, allowing the laboratory to integrate automated tools into its daily practice. Pathologie Friesland plans to begin its AI implementation by using a quality control application as an initial step to monitor **diagnostic standards**.

"AI will play a growing role in the future of pathology," says Marjolein Coster-Heerema, pathologist at Pathologie Friesland, in a release. "Concentriq AP-Dx is designed with AI built into the platform in a way that fits naturally into our daily practice.

This will allow us to focus more on the work that matters most in patient care."

According to the company, the platform is designed to provide the performance required for large-scale digital pathology networks.

"Pathologie Friesland is showing how laboratories can make a bigger impact and expand access to diagnoses while staying true to the standards their communities depend on," says David West, CEO of Proscia, in a release. "It's team thinks deeply about the people behind every case, from the pathologists using technology to the patients waiting for answers."

Sakura Finetek and Hamamatsu Photonics K.K.: Global Alliance Press Release

New global partnership between Sakura Finetek and Hamamatsu Photonics strengthens the digital pathology workflow from slide preparation to imaging.

Sakura Finetek, a global leader in automated tissue and slide preparation solutions for anatomic pathology, and Hamamatsu Photonics K.K., a worldwide leader in imaging technologies, today announced an alliance to enable consistent, scan-ready slides and clear digital images to support confident clinical decisions, with care for every patient.

Together, both companies are focused on reducing variability and rework by aligning high-quality slide preparation with reliable digitisation, empowering pathology teams to move efficiently from biopsy to diagnosis. The partnership is guided by a shared belief that engineering excellence ultimately serves one purpose: to improve patient care.

Sakura Finetek and Hamamatsu commit to collaborating with pathologists and laboratories to realise the benefits of one seamless workflow.

"Across Europe, laboratories are under increasing pressure to do more with less, while maintaining uncompromising quality," said Jaap Stuut, President, Sakura Finetek Europe. "By combining Sakura's proven expertise in producing consistently high-quality slides with Hamamatsu's imaging excellence, we are creating a workflow that empowers pathologists to focus on what truly matters: confident, timely diagnoses for every patient. This partnership is about delivering impact, better outcomes, more efficiency, and a shared vision for the future of digital pathology."

"Digital pathology can only be as strong as the slide that enters the scanner," said Tadashi Maruno, President, Hamamatsu Photonics K.K. "NanoZoomer systems are built to deliver high-quality whole slide images.

This partnership with Sakura Finetek reinforces a 'one complete workflow' mindset, supporting consistent slide preparation and clear imaging so pathologists can focus on what matters most: arriving at the right diagnosis for each patient."

Through this collaboration, Sakura Finetek and Hamamatsu support laboratories with:

- Workflow alignment between slide preparation steps and digital scanning to help reduce rework, rescans, and delays
- Joint customer engagement to help laboratories evaluate and design end-to-end workflows from histology through digital review
- Shared educational resources highlighting best practices for scan-ready slide production and reliable whole slide imaging

The global partnership is being launched today and will be rolled out in phases. In Europe, the rollout is expected towards the end of June, beginning in Germany, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Italy and the Netherlands, with additional European markets to follow as the partnership matures.

About Sakura Finetek

Sakura Finetek is the global leader in continuous innovation for pathology, providing integrated solutions for anatomic pathology and patients through best-in-class innovation, quality and customer care.

With a strategic focus on end-to-end automation, Sakura Finetek continues to lead the industry in developing and commercialising automated histopathology instrumentation and consumables for anatomic pathology. Sakura Finetek systems dramatically increase efficiency, standardise results and enable customers to manage their daily workload more simply while significantly influencing patient care.

For more information, please visit www.sakura.com

About Hamamatsu Photonics K.K.

Hamamatsu Photonics K.K. is a global leader in the design and manufacture of photonics devices, including advanced imaging detectors. Our optical sensors, light sources, cameras, photometry systems, and measurement and analysis systems deliver critical photonics components for a broad range of demanding applications and markets. For more than two decades, our NanoZoomer series of digital scanners has been a pioneering solution in whole-slide imaging scanner technology for pathology research.

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Address:-C-1310/1311, New Bombay Market, Umarwada, Surat-395010
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