



Fountain Valley Regional

HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER

17100 Euclid St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708

www.fountainvalleyhospital.com

News Release

Contact:

Dina Edwards

Marketing & Communications Associate

(714) 966-8175

Virtual Robot Joins ER Staff at Fountain Valley Regional Hospital

Fountain Valley, CA – November 21, 2008 – The newest addition to the staff at Fountain Valley Regional Hospital (FVRH) is advancing the way neuro-critical and stroke patients interact with physicians. At nearly 6 feet tall, Johnny 5 is a robot provided by InTouch Health that “virtually” interacts and communicates with patients, family and hospital staff and is accessible around the clock.

FVRH is the first hospital in Orange County to use this mobile, wireless robotic technology to help provide 24/7 coverage and immediate physician access for critically ill patients suffering from stroke or other neurological problems.

From a remote location, even from home, a physician uses a laptop and joystick to discuss a patient’s status at the nurses’ station, drive into the patient room, observe patient behavior, check bedside monitors and ventilator settings, discuss care with the patient and/or family members, and return to the nurses’ station to give orders or discuss next steps. And all the interactions are face to face through a wide screen, two-way monitor in real-time with digital quality resolution. Johnny 5 does not replace traditional physician encounters in person. It’s unique ability is that it can act in those times when a physician is not immediately present, especially during overnight shifts.

Addressing patient care on a moment’s notice is especially helpful for treating acute stroke patients. Yet, there is an extremely limited window of treatment time for getting the right expertise to the patient. Now, Johnny 5 allows specialized neuro-intensivist physicians to remotely examine neurological patients presenting in the hospital’s ER and determine what type of treatment they need. The neuro-intensivist orders treatments and provides documentation of their assessment. This process, called telemedicine can greatly benefit patients needing timely diagnosis and treatment.

“Having 24/7 access to this level of expertise and on an immediate basis is critical to helping patients with a stroke, seizure, head injury or other neurological emergencies recover,” said **Dr. Herb Rogove**, a neuro-intensivist affiliated with the hospital.

Fountain Valley Regional Hospital is also the first center in California to use newly designed StrokeRESPOND software, which allows physicians and medical staff to document the care of

stroke patients in accordance with the National Institute of Health's best practice protocols. FVRH is currently seeking a Joint Commission Primary Stroke Center certification and designation as a Stroke Center by Orange County Emergency Services.

The concept for the stroke care center is similar to that of a trauma center combining the resources of a number of specialties to quickly evaluate and treat patients with complex medical needs. Like a trauma center, the stroke center team works closely with local emergency medical services so that proper care can begin before the patient arrives at the hospital.

The stroke team includes physicians such as neurologists or neurosurgeons who specialize in the care of strokes. Nurses from the hospital's emergency department or intensive care unit also are part of the stroke team. The team is available around the clock to respond when a patient with stroke symptoms comes to the hospital.

The goal of a stroke team is to promptly assess the patient's condition and order the tests needed to diagnose the type of stroke involved. The team also works to stabilize the patient's blood pressure, heart rate and other vital functions. If the tests show that the patient's stroke is the result of a blood clot blocking a vein in the brain, then tPA, a clot-busting drug, can be given to help break up the clot. The team's goal is to begin tPA within three hours of the first symptoms of a stroke, to increase the likelihood of a patient's recovery with little or no disability after three months.

"Every 40 seconds in the United States, someone has a stroke, and about every three to four minutes someone dies as a result of a stroke. Using the stroke center approach helps us diagnose and treat strokes more quickly," said **Dr. Ignacio Carrillo-Nunez**, an FVRH neurologist who is heading up the hospital's stroke team. "We use evidence-based medicine to establish written protocols for stroke care that are designed to improve patient care and treatment times. These protocols have been shown to reduce the number of stroke-related complications, which lead to improved quality of life for our patients."

Becoming a Stroke Center, which the hospital hopes to achieve by early 2009, would dovetail the highly skilled capabilities of the hospital's ER Department and Neurosurgery Program, one of the few in Orange County, to better serve the community with a state-of-the-art approach to stroke care.

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About Fountain Valley Regional Hospital:

Fountain Valley Regional Hospital and Medical Center (FVRH), a 400-bed acute care hospital, is one of the most comprehensive medical facilities in Orange County. The hospital's core services include the Orange County Institutes for Heart & Vascular Care, Spine, Orthopedics, Neurosurgery and Pediatrics, with advanced neonatal and pediatric intensive care. Each center is specially designed to better serve our patients. Our continuum of care also includes the Orange County Regional Cancer Center including a newly renovated Center for Breast Care, labor and delivery, transfusion-free medicine and surgery, 24-hour emergency care including the first accredited Chest Pain Center in Orange County, urgent track, surgical weight loss services, inpatient and outpatient surgery. FVRH is fully accredited by the Joint Commission on the

Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. To learn more about Fountain Valley Regional Hospital and Medical Center visit www.fountainvalleyhospital.com.

About InTouch Health:

InTouch Technologies, Inc. (d.b.a. InTouch Health) is a privately held company based in Santa Barbara, California. The company has pioneered Remote Presence technology for healthcare providers. Through its RP-7 Remote Presence Robotic System, a proprietary mobile robotic and communications platform, doctors are able to consult with hospital-based patients and staff more easily and frequently. The InTouch Health solution leverages the time and expertise of healthcare professionals across multiple care facilities, improving the efficiency and effectiveness of care delivery. The Company has over 200 RP-7 systems deployed in acute care settings that are utilized for a range of clinical applications including stroke and multidisciplinary outreach, remote critical care coverage, on-call services and rounding. For more information about InTouch Health please visit www.intouchhealth.com.