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For Immediate Release

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First Successful Robotic Spine Surgery Performed in Western New York

Sisters Hospital, St. Joseph Campus Debuts Minimally-Invasive Robotic Spine Surgery

In the nineties, laparoscopic surgery revolutionized the way doctors removed gallbladders and performed a host of abdominal surgeries. The following decade, surgical robots redefined minimally-invasive surgery. Today, robotic technology has taken another giant leap with the introduction of Mazor Robotics' Renaissance® Surgical Guidance System, giving surgeons a new tool to make complex spine surgery safer and more accurate.

"A large number of people suffer from back pain and view surgery as a last option, due to the long and sometimes painful recovery associated with traditional spine surgery," said Catholic Health orthopedic surgeon Anthony M. Leone, MD. "The Renaissance® Guidance System gives us all the advantages of minimally-invasive robotic surgery – smaller incisions, less pain, shorter hospital stays and faster recoveries – with unparalleled accuracy to achieve better clinical outcomes for delicate spine surgery."

This month, Dr. Leone successfully performed the area's first minimally-invasive robotic spine surgery at Sisters of Charity Hospital, St. Joseph Campus using the Renaissance® System. The surgical team was pleased with both the clinical results and the smooth integration of the robotic technology into the hospital's spine surgery program. More surgeries using the new system are being scheduled.

The Renaissance® System's guidance technology allows doctors to create a "surgical blueprint" of the patient's spine before surgery. The system then guides the surgeon's hand and instruments to the precise pre-planned location for better accuracy. In a recent study published in Spine journal, investigators found the Renaissance® technology "offers enhanced performance in spinal surgery when compared to freehand surgeries, by increasing placement accuracy and reducing neurologic risks."

"We are pleased to be able to offer this advancement in spine surgery to our community," said Peter Bergmann, Sisters Hospital President & CEO. "Sisters Hospital prides itself in offering a variety of surgical options based on our patients' individual needs, coupled with quality, compassionate care."

For more information on the Renaissance® Surgical System, visit www.chsbuffalo.org/mazor-robotics.

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To set-up an interview with Dr. Leone and one of the first patients to undergo this surgery, please contact Carrie Sette Camara at (716) 862.1901 or Csettecamara@chsbuffalo.org.