Saving time, saving patients
An update on your investment in expanding access to advanced stroke care.

You’re helping Yince Loh, M.D., and his colleagues build the skills to pioneer remote, robot-assisted surgery for patients having a stroke in outlying areas.
The key to surviving and recovering from a stroke is getting the right care, as soon as possible. For patients with a large-vessel occlusion, where a clot blocks one of the major arteries in the brain, a thrombectomy can be a life-saving procedure. But not everyone has timely access to that level of care.

Thanks to you, that’s going to change in Washington state.

The CorPath GRX surgical robotic system will one day allow our expert physicians to sit at a console at Swedish Cherry Hill and control a robotic arm at another hospital. From miles away, a physician can vacuum a clot from a patient’s brain. This kind of remote procedure is healthcare of the future. And Swedish will be one of the only hospitals in the country—and the only site in the Pacific Northwest—to pioneer this new technology for emergency neurovascular procedures.

It can’t come too soon, according to Yince Loh, M.D. To illustrate the procedure’s value, the interventional neuro-radiologist lays out a scenario he sees all too often: A woman is transported to a regional hospital for a suspected stroke. The labs, imaging and diagnosis might take an hour, well within the time a thrombectomy will be most effective. But if she needs to be transported to a facility...
with surgeons capable of performing the procedure, that can add hours—even if everything goes right. All the while, her chances of recovering and getting back to her normal life are slipping away.

“With about 15 physicians trained to do this type of procedure in the state, and more than half of them located in Seattle, this system could help patients get an urgent thrombectomy quicker, without needing to be transported to another city,” says Dr. Loh.

Not only does the robotic system offer the potential for remote care, but it also gives the physician sub-millimeter control when navigating the fragile blood vessels of the brain. Just like in any other minimally invasive neurovascular procedure, a catheter is placed in the patient’s wrist or groin. Using joystick controls, the physician advances the catheter and other tools through the blood vessel with movement in any direction, including rotation. And with 4K resolution screens for imaging, they can see exactly where to go next.

The CorPath GRX is not yet FDA approved for procedures like thrombectomies, or remote use, but by the time clinical trials begin, our physicians will have the expertise to lead the way. They’ve already begun using the robotic system for diagnostic procedures like angiography, which visualizes blood vessels in the brain.

“We’re early adopters of this technology that will push the field further,” says neurosurgeon Stephen Monteith, M.D. “We see robotics as an important steppingstone to reaching patients who might not typically have access to care.”

And that’s all thanks to you. Because of your philanthropic support, patients around the state will one day soon benefit from the skills our physicians are building.

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Successful cardiac procedures have been performed in the U.S. with the CorPath GRX from 3,000 miles away.

There’s a test for that

Driving, managing medications and making big life decisions can all present challenges for patients with a neurological condition like Alzheimer’s or Parkinson’s disease, multiple sclerosis or a brain tumor. Thankfully our neuropsychologist, Ariana Tart-Zelvin, Ph.D., can assess cognitive abilities to address these challenges. Through paper and computer tests, Dr. Tart-Zelvin—whose position is supported by generous donors like you—can help patients, their caregivers and family members better understand what kind of support they might need.

Once she has established where a patient is functioning both cognitively and emotionally, Dr. Tart-Zelvin can make recommendations that will ideally improve overall functioning as well as quality of life. “It can be as simple as recommending a patient write down information they need to remember if their verbal memory is impaired,” she says. That can also include lifestyle recommendations, like ways to improve sleep and other issues that could exacerbate cognitive decline.

In addition to these cognitive assessments, Dr. Tart-Zelvin will also provide psychotherapy for patients and their family members who need more frequent support.
CONTINUE YOUR SUPPORT FOR INNOVATIVE NEUROSCIENCE CARE

You are bringing new opportunities and new hope to patients at the Swedish Neuroscience Institute. Your investment in the following areas can make a difference.

HIGH THROUGHPUT SCREENING TRIAL
Parvinder Hothi, Ph.D., and Kester Phillips, M.D., are working closely to offer a personalized treatment to patients with an aggressive form of brain tumor called glioblastoma at an earlier stage of their disease. You can make the second phase of the trial a reality for more patients.

SWEDISH PROGRAM FOR HEALTHY AGING
Neurologist Nancy Isenberg, M.D., MPH, is changing the way we care for patients with Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia. Your support will ensure patients have access to comprehensive, compassionate care that goes beyond treating dementia to address the emotional, physical and social challenges that accompany it.

Thank you for investing in the health and well-being of our community.

To learn more about innovative neuroscience care at Swedish, please contact:

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