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Innovation

LABORATORY REPORT

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High-tech ecosphere
Southlake Regional Health Centre, in Newmarket, Ont., is helping to spur the rise of innovative health-care technologies by allying with ventureLAB, a regional economic development agency.
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Northern Ontario's approach
Gaston Roy, chief information officer at Health Sciences North, in Sudbury, comments on the shared approach taken by hospitals in the region. It has reduced costs while bringing advanced systems to facilities that normally wouldn't benefit from expensive solutions.
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Laboratory automation
The lab at Saint-Eustache Hospital, in Quebec, has long been a leader in lab automation. It is now taking new steps in the post-analytical phase, and has implemented a paperless solution that makes it easier to locate and manage samples.
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Bioabsorbable stents
UHN is the first hospital in Ontario to use bioabsorbable stents in cardiac surgery. The scaffolds, which open and support previously



blocked blood vessels, are said to be a better solution than permanent stents.
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PHOTO: CENTRE FOR SURGICAL INVENTION AND INNOVATION

Canadians drive development of surgical robotics

Physicians and surgeons across Canada are devising new technologies and techniques using medical robots. Pictured above is a team at the Centre for Surgical Invention and Innovation (CGII) in Hamilton, which among other projects, is working on a new approach to treating breast cancer using MRI-guidance of surgical robots. Teams in Toronto and Vancouver also have exciting programs under way. **SEE STORY ON PAGE 12.**

UHN opens operating room of the future, today

BY JERRY ZEIDENBERG

TORONTO – A giant operating room – four times the size of most ORs and containing a dazzling panoply of imaging hardware and software – is opening this month at the University Health Network. Called the GTX-OR (short for guided therapeutics operating room), the multi-million dollar facility houses a Siemens dual-energy CT Flash scanner and an Artis Zeego robotic fluoroscopy machine – the first site in the world to have them in a single operating room.

The top-of-the-line equipment will enable physicians to quickly and accurately image patients while they're on the operating table, helping surgeons to provide the best possible outcomes through the use of image-guided procedures.

A team led by Dr. Jonathan Irish, chief of surgical oncology at University Health Network, has been planning the GTX-OR for several years. The project was spawned by the

Techna Institute, a research and development centre at UHN that's designed to produce and refine technologies to improve patient care.

Dr. Irish is also clinical lead for the guided therapeutics core of the Techna Institute. The surgical innovations devised at Techna are to be tested and further developed in the GTX-OR after extensive pre-clinical experimentation.

Dr. Irish and his colleagues are excited to finally start using the R&D operating room

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