News Release   Contact: Sarah Sherwood
                                                                             650-380-9102

Robotic or Laparoscopic?
New Study Will Compare Simulation Training Techniques

Palo Alto, CA, November 10, 2011--Stanford's Camran Nezhat, M.D., announced today that he will compare simulation training between laparoscopic and Mimic Technology's robotic software for the da Vinci Robot. Additionally, he will assess whether the training techniques have a significant effect for patients.

Nezhat and his researchers are evaluating the best, least-invasive ways of surgically removing uterine fibroids, endometriosis and other causes of infertility and pelvic pain by avoiding the more traditional open surgery, where a large incision is made through the abdominal wall to gain access to the uterus and other pelvic organs.

"Anything that helps us preserve the uterus and other vital organs in a way that is much less invasive to women is the way to go, says Nezhat. What makes this study important is how simulators enable surgeons to become proficient in a much shorter time."

An analysis of previous studies finds that the use of technology-enhanced simulation training in health professions education, in comparison with no intervention, is associated with significant effects for outcomes of knowledge, skills, and behaviors and more moderate effects for patient-related outcomes, according to an article in this year's September 7 issue of *JAMA*.

"Past outcomes for both laparoscopic and robotic-assisted surgery have been similar, however, robotic procedures have had the advantages of the three-dimensional images, the articulation of the instruments, and the ability for the surgeon to be seated during the procedure, says Jeff Berkley, CEO of Mimic Technologies, who makes the software and simulation devices for the daVinci robot. This makes the study of robotic simulation critical for surgeons and their patients."

As reported by the Mayo Clinic, both techniques are preferable to the traditional open incision because there is less blood loss, shorter hospital stays and fewer post-operative complications.

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About Camran Nezhat
Camran Nezhat, MD, FACS, FACOG, is an internationally renowned laparoscopic surgeon, scientist, and innovator at Stanford University Medical Center, in Palo Alto, California.

About Mimic Technologies

Mimic Technologies, headquarted in Seattle, was founded in 2001 to provide leadership in robotic surgery simulation in order to provide needed training for complex robotic surgery. Together with leading institutions, Mimic continues to develop curriculums that aim to advance robotic surgery training and improve patient safety. For more information about Mimic Technologies, visit www.MimicSimulation.com.