



## Gala to raise funds for surgical system

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EMC News - The Brookstreet Hotel's gala on Sept. 7 will have a huge impact on Ottawa's health care system.

Funds raised from the annual fundraiser will go towards the Ottawa Hospital Foundation in their quest to purchase a state-of-the-art piece of medical equipment known as the da Vinci surgical system. The 9th Annual Lumière Gala is set to make a difference in the community on Wednesday, Sept. 7, kicking off with a "It's a New Day" charity golf tournament, to be held at The Marshes Golf Club, followed by wining, dining and networking - complete with fireworks at the end of the night.

Jennifer Van Noort, vice-president of Major Gifts at the Ottawa Hospital, explains the surgical piece of equipment is available in other cities in Canada and in the United States, and the community is currently raising funds to bring the \$5 million robot to Ottawa. The robot is basically a high-tech assistant which allows surgeons access to very small, hard-to-reach areas in the human body, particularly the pelvic area and abdomen, with greater precision and fewer complications. The benefit to the acquisition of such a surgical system means recovery times are reduced, less pain for the patient, a shorter hospital wait time, and the chance for the patient to return to their everyday activities even sooner.

The surgical system has four arms, with a greater range of motion and dexterity than human wrists and hands, and converts the surgeon's movements into micro-movements. A camera in the system allows surgeons the ability to magnify the part of the body they wish to extract from.

The da Vinci surgical system is not just for one part of the body - which means the equipment has the capacity to help patients with different illnesses, and potentially save lives. It also means people will not have to travel across the country or in the States to have surgery, instead, they will be able to be treated right at home at an Ottawa hospital. Caroline Savignac, communications manager at the Brookstreet Hotels, says this year's event follows on the heels of last year's successful event, where \$55,000 was raised for local charities. More than 500 people attended the event, which sees Executive Chef Clifford Lyness and his culinary team bring local flavour in a variety of dishes.

Live music from formidable jazz singer Diane White, a silent and live auction, and the chance to network amongst clients and friends is what makes this event a spectacular one. Savignac says this year, the fundraising initiative took a different direction: instead of raising funds for several local charities, a partnership was instilled between the hotel and the hospital foundation.

"We are so lucky to have the quality of care at the Ottawa Hospital that we have," she says. The event will take place indoors on the second level of the luxury hotel, and is but one event where the hotel enjoys giving back to the community. The Lumière Gala still has tickets available. Savignac encourages anyone with interest in purchasing a ticket or donating to the cause to visit [www.brookstreet.com](http://www.brookstreet.com).