

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**St. Francis-Emory Healthcare First in Chattahoochee Valley
to Offer Total Knee Replacement with Robotic Technology**

COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, February 22, 2021— St. Francis-Emory Healthcare is pleased to announce its first total knee replacement with robotic technology was performed on Thursday, February 11, 2021, by orthopedic surgeon [Dr. George Zimmerman](#). St. Francis is the first hospital in the Chattahoochee Valley to offer robotic surgery options for orthopedic patients.

“We are proud to be the first hospital in our region to provide access to this technology,” said Melody Trimble, chief executive officer at St. Francis. “We know that robotic technology enables our surgeons to have a more predictable surgical experience with increased precision and accuracy and provides patients with options that are less invasive and provide faster recovery times. This addition to our orthopedic service line further demonstrates our commitment to making communities healthier.”

The new surgical system builds on St. Francis’s recent commitment to provide additional minimally invasive surgical options for a number of service lines. The 3D CT-based planning software allows the surgeon to move about the patient’s anatomy, enabling a personalized joint replacement surgical plan. With the technology, the surgeon follows the personalized surgical plan while preparing the bone for the total knee replacement and uses real-time data to assess the movement and tension of the new joint.

Dr. Zimmerman returned to St. Francis Orthopaedic Institute in December and specializes in hip & knee replacements. He echoes Trimble’s excitement for the new technology, emphasizing the benefit to patients:

“With this new technology, we know more about our patients than ever before through a personalized joint replacement surgical plan, and we’re able to make fewer – and smaller - incisions. For some patients, this can mean less soft-tissue damage; for others, greater bone preservation. It is an exciting time to be able to offer this transformative technology for our patients. St. Francis is raising the bar in robotic services in the region.”

Frequently cited clinical benefits associated with robot-assisted surgeries include less pain, less physical therapy, reduction in length of hospital stay, improved knee flexion, and less soft-tissue damage when compared to manual techniques.

In the upcoming months, St. Francis will host a community-wide “Name the New Robot” contest. To learn more about our robotic services, visit MyStFrancis.com.

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About St. Francis-Emory Healthcare:

St. Francis-Emory Healthcare, a part of LifePoint Health and Emory Healthcare, is a 376-bed facility that offers a full range of inpatient, outpatient, and emergency room services and is the only area hospital offering open-heart surgery. With more than 2,300 employees, 300 physicians, and the latest technology, we strive to help you regain and maintain your health. Our overriding goal is to provide you with the best possible care and to continue Making Communities Healthier. For more information about St. Francis, visit MyStFrancis.com.