



Johns Hopkins Medicine
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**JOHNS HOPKINS MEDICINE INTERNATIONAL AND THE JOHNS HOPKINS
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE FIND ONE MORE USE FOR ROBOT ONCE
USED FOR MEDICAL ROUNDS: IT “SPEAKS” SPANISH DURING THE LONG NIGHTS
AROUND THE HOSPITAL**

Baltimore, January 5, 2007: *In Touch Health* RP7, mostly known at Johns Hopkins Hospital as the “rounds” robot or *Dr. Robot*, has now been given a “new job”: to serve as a translation tool to patients at the Department of Emergency Medicine at Johns Hopkins.

The robot, which among other things, allows remote presence of physicians at a patient’s bedside (the RP in the robot’s name stands for Remote Presence), has been used at Johns Hopkins in a variety of pilot programs, including stroke patients evaluation, surgical mentoring in the OR, post-op evaluation in a number of departments. Most recently, live Spanish interpretations during the night hours (10 p.m. to 7 a.m.) is the latest “job” of *Dr. Robot*.

“A great number of hospitals in the United States provide interpretation services for non-English speaking patients, and at Johns Hopkins the time it usually takes for an interpreter to reach the patient on-site from the moment the request is placed after 10 p.m. is about 30 minutes. Depending on the language requested, it can take as long as 120 minutes for us to find an interpreter”, says Fumika Dulay, manager of the Community Services at Johns Hopkins Medicine International, where all interpretation requests go.

An average of 60% (approximately 10,000) of the interpretation requests are in Spanish, given Baltimore’s growing Latino community, and a good amount of the requests are for on-site interpretation in the emergency room, where physician, nurses and family have to take fast decisions. Alex Nason, Director of Telemedicine at Johns Hopkins Medicine, currently responsible for *Dr. Robot*’s use throughout the hospital, suggested that the “on-call” interpreter (who takes the Spanish interpretation requests from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. on weekdays and 24 hours a day on weekends) could

reach patients much faster if he didn't have to drive to the hospital. The result is that in collaboration with the Johns Hopkins Department of Emergency Medicine, Juvenal Reyes (the on-call interpreter) and *Dr. Robot* started "seeing" patients and families on December 4, 2006.

"With RP7, Juvenal reaches the patient in 10 minutes, and he can follow the physician and the patient, as well as talk to the family, which may be in another room. Besides, the operation of the robot for the interpreter is really easy. A joystick is connected to a laptop and after 15 minutes of training anyone can operate RP7 without major problems, from home", says Alex Nason. "RP7 has been used in a number of pilot programs at Hopkins and so far all of them were very successful. The goal, in case this new use proves valuable to the patients and physicians, is to have another RP7 during the day so that any of the interpreters in the station can operate it to have quicker access to the patients", he adds.

Reports of results from *Dr. Robot's* pilot program on interpretation say that physicians and patients are satisfied with the use of the robot. "The patient does not lose the personal contact with the interpreter, because they still can see his face in the monitor, and we can have a faster response from the interpreter, since most of our patients are in a very delicate situation", says Tina Tolson, Nurse Manager at the Department of Emergency Medicine. "RP7 stays in my room, and all I have to do is open my door and let it go."

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Johns Hopkins Medicine has provided international leadership in the education of physicians and medical scientists, in biomedical research, and in the application of medical knowledge to sustain health since the opening of The Johns Hopkins Hospital in 1889.

Today, Hopkins Medicine brings together the faculty physicians and scientists of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine with the organizations, community physicians, nurses and other professionals of The Johns Hopkins Health System to continue that mission.

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Leading a trend of rapid global changes in health, Johns Hopkins Medicine International works with international patients, physicians and institutions to bring the best of Johns Hopkins Medicine in research, education, training and clinical services to the world community. For more than a century, Johns Hopkins Medicine has built a reputation for excellence unsurpassed by any health care institution in the world.

The mission of the institution is to create an environment where the quest for new knowledge will continually yield more effective and compassionate care for all. In 2006, *US News & World Report* ranked Johns Hopkins Hospital as America's "Best Hospital" for the 16th consecutive year.