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Cayuga Surgical Team Performs 500th *da Vinci* Robotic Surgery in Less Than Two Years

March 31, 2021 Ithaca, New York – Cayuga Health officials announced today that as of Tuesday, March 30th, their Surgical team has performed their 500th *da Vinci* robotic surgery in less than two years, double the 125 per year that the majority of comparable community hospitals may experience.

"Completing 500 robotics surgeries in less than two years, while accomplishing this through the COVID-19 pandemic, is real testament to our outstanding surgeons, surgical teams, and the demand for this technology," states Dr. Martin Stallone, President & CEO of Cayuga Health. "We are happy to report that we now have eight surgeons practicing robotics - four general surgeons, one bariatric surgeon, and three gynecological surgeons."

Cayuga Medical Center introduced the addition of the *daVinci Xi®,* the most advanced robotics surgical system, to its portfolio of patient offerings in 2019. The *da Vinci Xi* is designed to enhance surgeon capabilities and advance minimally invasive procedures.

"It has been a bit of a whirlwind type of journey to have us start with this system back in the summer of 2019 and then to hit this impressive milestone so quickly," states Dr. John Mecenas, General, Laparoscopic, Bariatric & Robotic Surgeon at Cayuga Surgical Specialists. "The reason we have been able to achieve this number of cases in such a short period has been in part due to the

surgeons, but also is largely due to the dedication and focus of the OR staff, in particular, Sheila Stein, NP RNFA, our Robotics Coordinator who assures our teams are well organized and well trained."

"For many patients, robotic surgery is a better, safer option than open surgery and studies have found that patients experience shorter hospital stays, less blood loss, fewer complications, less need for narcotic pain medicine and a faster recovery," adds Stallone. "In addition, I believe our outstanding safety record has contributed to the increase of surgeries despite the pandemic environment"

About Cayuga Health

Cayuga Health (CH) has two hospitals, Cayuga Medical Center and Schuyler Hospital, as well as a multi-specialty group, Cayuga Medical Associates. Combined employment, including affiliated organizations, is over 2,200 employees. CH is clinically linked to Mayo Medical Laboratories, Rochester Regional Health for cardiac services, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center for cancer services, and the University of Rochester for neurosciences. Visit www.cayugahealth.org for more information.