

# Breakthroughs

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The first of its kind in Chicago, the new Minimally Invasive Surgery Center at Weiss Memorial Hospital includes specialists from many different disciplines.

## New Surgery Center Focuses on Quick Recovery and Reduced Pain

**M**any surgical procedures that once required large incisions and long hospital stays now are performed through tiny incisions. This has drastically reduced hospitalization, often to only one to two days," says Constantine Frantzides, MD, University of Chicago surgeon and director of the Minimally Invasive Surgery Center at Louis A. Weiss Memorial Hospital. "Laparoscopic or minimally invasive surgery offers patients many benefits that include minimal pain after surgery and a much faster recovery than with conventional surgery."

The center is the first of its kind in Chicago and includes specialists from general surgery, obstetrics and

gynecology, urology, orthopaedics, neurosurgery, and cardiothoracic and vascular surgery. These specialists work together to offer a full spectrum of minimally invasive surgeries from gall bladder and hernia procedures to surgery of the pancreas, colon, and other organs. "With surgical specialists from different areas working together, we can continue to improve current procedures and develop new ones," says Dr. Frantzides, who has pioneered minimally invasive surgeries that are now performed all over the world, including the first laparoscopic highly selective vagotomy (an extremely precise ulcer operation) and the laparoscopic repair of perforations of the stomach.

## Complete Cancer Information in a Single Site

The new Cancer Resource Center in the University of Chicago Hospitals' Duchossois Center for Advanced Medicine houses virtually all information available for patients on every type of cancer. Established by the U of C Cancer Research Center and supported by the Nathan and Frances Goldblatt Society for Cancer Research, the resource center offers free newsletters and brochures from nationally recognized organizations, such as the American Cancer Society and the National Cancer Institute; a reference library that includes books written by cancer patients; and a guide to local support groups, including those offered through the U of C Hospitals. Videotapes and audiotapes may be viewed or listened to on the premises. A computer terminal provides access to information on the Internet.

"People seeking information about cancer prevention, treatment, and resources can find it here," says Kathleen Wren, director of the center. "If we don't have the information here, we can direct people to other sources."