

Tech-Know

Technology in the Medical Field

By Emily Farraway

Technology has been very important in the advancement and improvement of the medical field. X-rays, ultra-sounds, heart pacemakers, hearing aids, and even desktop computers have all played a big part in bringing the medical field to the level of greatness that it is at today.

The most beneficial factor that technology has brought to the surgery tables recently is the robot arms that make surgeries less evasive, resulting in shorter recovery times. For many surgeries, surgeons use the aid of robot arms and cameras so that many surgeries require a very small incision compared to what used to be needed.

Artificial arms and legs have also benefited greatly. Those without legs can now enjoy running through the use

of bilateral prosthetic legs, while special attachments to robotic arms allow people to do numerous amounts of activities that they would not have been able to before, such as playing pool or even eating without help. Researchers are still looking into different ways to help amputees, since the prosthetic limbs that require attachment to stumps or sockets can still be quite painful to use. One method of working around this is to use titanium bolts, which the bone will meld itself to, allowing for longer wear of prosthetic limbs with less discomfort. There are disadvantages to this method, however, due to the fact that high impact tends to cause the bone that has grown to break.

There are several advantages that far outweigh the disadvantages to using technology to assist in medical aid, however the use of robotics is not allowing

surgeons to have the sense of touch that they used to rely on. Researchers are attempting to find ways so that surgeons can have some feedback from their robotic surgical instruments so that senses can be felt, such as pressure. With further advancement in this area, surgeons may one day be able to tell how much force the robotic tools are using during surgery.

As technology continues to advance, so will improvements in the medical field. The two go hand-in-hand when helping those in need.

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The Mind's Eye wants you to get involved. Here are some ways to participate in your community youth newspaper:

1) Do you currently read or submit to The Mind's Eye newspaper? Want to be our next **Profile of the Month**? Contact Amanda at mindseye@nysa.bc.ca to fill out a form and your smiling face could be famous next month.

2) Do you want to gain **public speaking** experience? We're looking for outgoing volunteers to share information about The Mind's Eye with

their own class and others. Training provided. This opportunity is open to all youth under age 25. Contact Amanda at mindseye@nysa.bc.ca for more info. Please put 'classroom volunteer' in the subject line.

3) Join our facebook group: **The Mind's Eye Youth Newspaper** to show your support, spread the word about the paper, and get in on contests and fun opportunities.

4) Become a correspondent for your school. Write a monthly column sharing the trends and opinions at your school. See page 4 for complete details. Applications now being accepted.