

# THE ROUND-UP

## Siriraj offers free ops for 84 poor

Siriraj Hospital will provide robotic surgery free of charge to 84 poor patients to celebrate His Majesty the King's 84th birthday this year.

The surgery, which would be made available until December this year, would be offered to patients with prostate cancer and kidney and urinary tract diseases, said Teerawat Kultanan, dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, yesterday.

Dr Teerawat called on patients who met the hospital's requirements to apply for the robotic surgery from May 2 at the hospital's department of surgery, while those who wanted to donate money for the project could contact the Siriraj Foundation at 02-4197658-60.

Chaiyong Nualyong, head of the Division of Urology, Department of Surgery, said that those who underwent robotic surgery would take less time to recover than with traditional surgery and they could return home sooner.

The da Vinci surgical system used is a robotic surgical system and it is designed to facilitate complex surgery. It has a set of four robotic arms.

He said the system enabled surgeons to carry out invasive surgery with great precision.

By operating from inside the body, surgeons could avoid external incisions, minimising pain and shortening recovery times for patients, he said.

The hospital has pioneered and successfully operated the 90-million-baht device with prostate and renal cancer since 2007.

Surgeons aimed to expand the use of the state-of-the-art technology to cover daily surgical ulcer, uterus and bypass work, Dr Chaiyong said.