

## Robotic surgeon joins Somerset Urological staff in Somerville



Dr. Dhiren S. Dave of Somerset Urological Associates mounts a camera on the daVinci robot at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville. Dave is the first fellowship-trained robotic surgeon at Somerset Medical Center, also Somerville. (STAFF PHOTO: KATHY JOHNSON)

### SOMERSET UROLOGICAL ASSOCIATES

Address of business: 72 West End Ave., Somerville

Type of business: Private medical practice specializing in urology and urological surgery

Principals: Drs. Arthur E. Feldman, Joel M. Fischer and Keith A. Harmon

How long in business: More than 50 years

Number of employees: 16

Telephone number: 908-927-0300

Web site: [www.somerseturological.com](http://www.somerseturological.com)

**SOMERVILLE** — Dr. Dhiren S. Dave recently joined Somerset Urological Associates as the first fellowship-trained robotic surgeon at the borough's Somerset Medical Center.

Dave's expertise and training involves the use of the daVinci robotic surgical system.

"It has perfect applications within the field of urology, where complex surgeries performed in small spaces can be carried out through small incisions, thereby allowing patients to have minimal pain, shorter hospital stays, faster recoveries and shorter time away from work and family activities," Dave said. "Significant advantages of the robotic approach over conventional laparoscopy include three-dimensional, magnified visualization within the patient's body, which allows for more accurate and precise dissection with reduced risk of blood loss."

The surgical EndoWrist technology of the robotic arms allows for greater range of motion and improves the surgeon's hand movements by eliminating tremors, Dave said.

"As with any surgery, however, the quality of the procedure is still dictated by the skill of the surgeon, and it is well known that complex surgeries performed by robotic surgeons with more experience will result in better outcomes for patients," he said.

Working in the field of urology continues to be very rewarding, Dave said.

"I was attracted to the art of surgery, and urology offered a great canvas for performing a variety of surgical procedures ranging from large, complex cancer and reconstructive surgeries to endoscopic stone procedures and delicate pediatric operations with the common theme being a desire to heal people and provide a longer and more durable quality of life," he said.

A native of India, Dave moved to the United States at the age of 5.

"My wife and I are very fortunate to have both our families in New Jersey," he said.

Raised in Salt Lake City, Dave graduated Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and earned his medical degree from Vanderbilt University in Nashville. He next attended UCLA for a urologic surgery residency and most recently attended the Swedish Medical Center in Seattle for a robotic surgery fellowship. "We feel very lucky to have come full circle to be close to family again, and I'm excited to call New Jersey my new home," he said. "We decided to come to Somerset County not only because of its great location with its proximity to the major local metropolitan areas, it's rich history and quaint towns, as well as its natural beauty and small community feel, we came because of the opportunity to join a great group of urologists at Somerset Urological Associates, as well as for the opportunity to develop a high-quality robotic surgery program at Somerset Medical Center that offers state-of-the-art services to the community in a warm, caring and compassionate healing environment."

Somerset Urological Associates has its roots in the early 1950s when Dr. Ernest Gentile pioneered Central Jersey's first specialized urology practice. Gentile also was a trailblazer at Somerset Medical Center and a former president of its staff.

Dave said he's proud to be a part of the practice.

He said his approach to patient care is in educating patients and empowering them to make decisions for themselves.

"Having a father who was recently treated for prostate cancer, I understand the social and psychological impact that cancer and illness has on an entire family," Dave said, "and use this experience to enhance my interactions with patients on a daily basis."