



Sat January 27, 2007
www.EdmontonSun.com
mailbag@edmsun.com

SERVICES **SUBSCRIBE** **EMPLOYMENT** **NEWS RESEARCH CENTRE** **CLASSIFIEDS** **ADVERTISING**

In Tomorrow's Paper

Get the latest Oilers news every day in Sports. Or check our Oilers homepage here.

Current Conditions
 **Partly sunny**
-17°C
 Full Forecast

SUN BUSINESS

Home
 News
 Sports
 Photo Galleries
 Entertainment
 Opinion/Comment
 Columnists
 Lifestyle
 Business
 Columnists
 News
 Who's Suing
 eBay Eccentric

Kelley Keehn

Sat, January 27, 2007

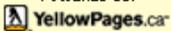


Building better treatment

Edmonton company researches and develops safe procedures for surgery

By **KELLEY KEEHN**



POWERED BY:

Find A Business

Name

City

Find it

Find A Person

Did you know it can be more dangerous to have a medical procedure than to fly? Travellers may be reassured that only one in five million U.S. flights results in a deadly accident. But do U.S. patients realize that one in 300 will die from medical mistakes?

You might wonder how Canada fares.

"Up to 24,000 Canadians will die each year from medical error," according to Dr. Deon Louw, an Edmonton neurosurgeon.

If that weren't staggering enough, those numbers are greater than all of the deaths that result annually from breast cancer, AIDS and motor vehicle accidents combined.

Few Edmontonians wake up each day with a mission to save lives. And it's safe to assume that few of us have jobs where mistakes can be fatal.

Factor in the booming Alberta economy with increasing medical demand and a recipe for disaster could be looming.

Low and his partner Rob Barrett, an airbus pilot, teamed up to form SureSurgery, a company focused on surgical safety research and development. It strives to make safety in the medical community a way of life.

SureSurgery advises hospitals and other health organizations on the appropriate mix of technology, training and tactics to reduce the incidence, and the effects, of error in the operating room.

Dr. Louw co-designed and is a patent holder of an image-guided MRI-compatible microsurgical robotic system. He is writing a book on patient safety with Barrett.

HOSPITAL CHECKLIST

According to suresurgery.com, consider the following checklist before you or a loved one checks into hospital.

- Bring a patient advocate to the hospital with you to ensure you are receiving the correct medication and dosage.

Featured:

Snow Scene
Blogs
Paper Cuts Podcast
First Light

Special Sections:

Active Edmonton
 Colleges & Uni's
 Curling Guide
 Swimsuit Edition
 On The Outskirts
 Coupon Book
 Home Design
 Travel Tips
 Police Beat
 Pets On Parade
 Look & Feel
 Neighbourhoods
 Autonet Section

Classifieds:

Classified Extra

Jobboom
Autonet
Dating

- Bring a list of your medications and allergies.
- Ensure that you or your advocate ask the hospital staff to wash their hands prior to examining you.

SUNshine Girl



- Never assume that staff changes are flawless. "Remind new, busy caregivers of your specific needs and vulnerabilities."
- Ask for your discharge instructions and followup appointments in writing prior to leaving the hospital or clinic.

South African-born Louw has been a Canadian-certified neurosurgeon since 1994. He chose Edmonton as his preferred location of practice for a number of reasons, and was well-researched about Edmonton's advantages over Calgary and other major Canadian cities.

Louw narrowed his criteria and cited our world-class University hospital amongst many other economic and political benefits.

IN TALKS

SureSurgery, along with other organizations in Edmonton, is in talks with MDA (MacDonald, Dettwiler and Associates Ltd.) regarding the province and country's robotics requirements. MDA is a B.C.-based company that built the CanadArm.

So remember, no matter how bad your day is at the office or what corporate New Year's blunders you've already committed, it's not like it's brain surgery or anything.

Unless you're spending the day with Dr. Louw, doing his all to prevent deaths and save lives. Right here in E-town.

On Canoe:

Your Health
Trends
Eat
Sex Files
DIY
Gadgets
Lotteries
Comics
Crossword
Horoscopes
TV Listings
Movie Listings

Services:

Mobile
Sun Underground
Subscriptions
Advertising
News Research
About Us
Employment
Contact Us
Privacy Policy

Kelley Keehn, lecturer, personal coach and author of The Prosperity Factor, uncovers the "inner games" people play surrounding wealth. Visit Kelley at www.TheProsperityFactor.com or call her at 780-732-0144. Letters to the editor should be sent to mailbag@edmsun.com.

[Columnists Home](#)



Newspapers

This site is updated by 4:00 a.m. MST each day and includes stories and columns from the day's print edition of The Edmonton Sun.

[SUBSCRIBE](#) [EMPLOYMENT](#) [NEWS RESEARCH CENTRE](#) [CLASSIFIEDS](#) [ADVERTISING](#)

[Send a Letter to the Editor](#)
CANOE home | We welcome your [feedback](#).
Copyright © 2006, [Canoe Inc.](#) All rights reserved. Test