Leading the Way in Women’s Health

Dr. Deborah Robertson puts patients at the centre of care.

Dr. Deborah Robertson is one of Canada’s brightest young surgeons. She is also the newest women’s health expert to join St. Michael’s Hospital’s Women’s Health Centre.

An obstetrician/gynecologist, Dr. Robertson specializes in gynecologic minimally invasive surgery (MIS), an innovative surgical technique that offers significant advantages over conventional surgery. For women requiring hysterectomies, MIS means smaller incisions, less scarring and a faster recovery.

“I want to provide women with a type of hysterectomy that is based on their personal needs rather than my surgical skills,” says Dr. Robertson. “That’s why I came to St. Michael’s Hospital to train with Dr. Guylaine Lefebvre.”

Under the leadership of Dr. Lefebvre, an international authority on MIS and our chief of obstetrics and gynecology, St. Michael’s Hospital offers Canada’s only two-year fellowship in the field. It is a fellowship program that attracts candidates from across the country and as far away as Ireland. Dr. Robertson completed the program in spring 2007.

“I learned from the very best,” says Dr. Robertson, who is also an expert in treating benign conditions of the cervix and vulva. “The fellowship gave me the skills I need to perform more advanced laparoscopic and vaginal surgeries to ensure the best possible outcomes for my patients.”

Dr. Robertson also conducts research and facilitates educational opportunities within St. Michael’s Hospital’s simulation centre. “I am working with a multidisciplinary team to improve simulation training in MIS gynecology for residents and students.”

Looking ahead, she is excited about the many benefits the new Women’s Health Centre at St. Michael’s Hospital will bring for patients. “The new centre is a unique and modern approach to providing care that puts St. Michael’s at the forefront in women’s health,” she says. “The design mimics what we want to achieve – it puts patients first.”