TRAUMA POD Media Coverage Report

April 1, 2005 – November 17, 2006

1. Innovation Watch Newsletter 4.07

This newsletter quickly mentions that The Pentagon is awarding $12 million in grants on Monday to develop an unmanned "trauma pod" designed to use robots to perform full scalpel-and-stitch surgeries on wounded soldiers in battlefield conditions.
http://www.innovationwatch.com/iwnewsletter.2005-0407.htm

2. DARPA Strives for Automated Battlefield Medicine

This news brief mentions that DARPA has committed $12 million to develop an automated battlefield trauma system. The two-year effort will employ robotic technology to perform a surgical procedure in an unmanned facility that can be transported by a ground or air vehicle. This unmanned trauma pod would be deployed on a battlefield to treat wounded soldiers in need of immediate medical attention. It would be operated by a human surgeon from a remote location connected by wireless links, and automated robotic systems would assist the surgeon and maintain life support for the patient. SRI International (www.sri.com) heads the trauma pod team, which includes other corporations, government laboratories and academia.
http://www.imakenews.com/signal/e_000075709000039843.cfm?x=b11,0,w

3. Emergency Surgeon "Trauma Pod" Robot

This blog reports that SRI leads a group that has won a $12 million contract to begin research on the trauma pod. The contract for a two-year preliminary project is from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the Defense Department's research and development group. Experts estimate that a working trauma pod is at least 10 or 15 years away.
http://robotgossip.blogspot.com/2005/04/emergency-surgeon-trauma-pod-robot.html

4. SRI to Develop Robotics for Battlefield Medical Care

This article reports that SRI International Inc. won a two-year, $12 million contract from DARPA to develop a robotic surgical system that would let doctors operate on a wounded soldier on the battlefield from a remote location. The article mentions that for the trauma pod to be effective, researchers must address problems such as communication delays between the doctor and the trauma pod in the field. They also need to automate surgical processes such as administering anesthesia or inserting an IV. Another challenge is coordinating the robotic automation and the surgical system so that different parts of the pod do not run into each other or the patient.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A23899-2005Apr3.html

5. Crossing Boundaries: Robo-Doc to the Rescue; And RNA World

This article reports that on the battlefield of the future, medical personnel won't be on the front lines dodging bullets and shrapnel as they try to reach fallen soldiers to render aid. The vision of researchers at the University of Washington, facilitated by a multidisciplinary collaboration between the departments of electrical engineering and surgery is to replace human surgeons on the battle field with high-tech robotic pods. UW's Biorobotics Lab in an cooperative liaison with partner universities and companies to create a "trauma pod" for the military. The Pentagon recently gave the consortium $12 million over two years to help make that vision a reality.
http://www.engr.washington.edu/enews/2005-05/09.html

6. Unmanned to the Rescue

This article reports that the U.S. Army's Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center (TATRC) is working on several unmanned robotics programs that would extract battlefield casualties without further endangering lives. In March, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) awarded $12 million in grants over the next two years for the development of a trauma pod. "Dr. Rick Satava at DARPA envisioned an autonomous casualty care unit that could model everything from the human organ system to the individual DNA of a soldier and draw up a treatment plan that robots could perform," Gilbert said. The idea became the trauma pod, which

would enable surgeons to manipulate a robot in real time. Under the grants, SRI International will lead a consortium of researchers that include General Dynamics Robotic Systems, the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, University of Texas, University of Washington, University of Maryland and Robotic Surgical Tech Inc.
http://www.military-medical-technology.com/print_article.cfm?DocID=1018

7. Military Medicine coming soon to an Accident near You
This article reports that the trauma care that Army medics give to wounded may someday save our lives. Quickly stabilizing wounded soldiers is so important that the Army has awarded a $12-million contract to SRI International**,** to develop an armored first-aid vehicle that would pull hurt soldiers off the battlefield and attend to them, potentially minutes after they were wounded. The first phase of the two-year program is to develop a way to perform totally unmanned surgical procedures within a fixed facility. In combat, a doctor will conduct all surgical procedures from remote locations using surgical manipulators. Its actions would be transmitted to the surgery site. When fully developed, the Trauma Pod can be carried by a medical ground or air vehicle.
http://www.medicaldesign.com/articles/ID/12827

8. Tomorrow's Battlefield Surgeon May Not be Flesh and Blood
This article reports that a futuristic battlefield where doctors can quickly treat injured soldiers -- from thousands of miles away. Engineers at the UW have been working on the $1.2 million project, which is funded by the Army, for four years. Engineers at the UW have been working on the $1.2 million project, which is funded by the Army, for four years. Last week, they tested the robot in Southern California.
http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/273587_robot12.html

9. Closing on Remote Care
This blog reports that DARPA) seeks to investigate and exploit promising technologies for use in the defence industry. Its Trauma Pod program an outgrowth of earlier telepresence surgery R&D--seeks to meet the military's need for trauma care and autonomous surgery by 2025. It is part of the Army's goal to remove medical personnel and all hospitals from battlefields. Since 2004, DARPA principal investigators have designed and prototyped novel systems. Commercial use of Trauma Pod technologies could lead to greater medical efficiency and the better use of specialist staff.
http://feeds.feedburner.com/FutureHealthIt

10. Doc at a Distance
This article reports that robot surgeons promise to save lives in remote communities, war zones, and disaster-stricken areas. The article goes into great detail about the Trauma Pod program and how the technology works.
http://www.spectrum.ieee.org/oct06/4667

11. Leading Research Institute SRI International Celebrates 60 Years of World-Changing Innovations
This press release is announced that SRI International celebrated its 60th anniversary on November 6, 2006. Within the press release, there is a segment on telpresence surgery which mentions the Trauma Pod, an automated medical treatment system that could treat injured soldiers without requiring medical personnel on the battlefield.
http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20061106005447&newsLang=en

***Also See**:*
Genetic Engineering News: http://www.genengnews.com/news/bnitem.aspx?name=8288544
PharmaLive: http://www.pharmalive.com/News/index.cfm?articleid=388518&categoryid=20

12. Survival

This article discusses medical innovations, improved treatment facilities and experienced corpsmen that are curtailing battlefield fatalities. The article mentions that forward surgery suite could be replaced at some point in the future by a fully robotic “trauma pod” under development at DARPA. It could be autonomous or placed in the back of a Stryker combat vehicle and that the trauma pod is less than 10 years away from becoming a reality.
http://www.navyleague.org/sea_power/nov06-10.php