



affiliated with medical schools, VSO rotations have been implemented, and there are VSO national and international conferences.

Orthopedic surgeon **Dr. Robert Marchand** inside one of the seven operating rooms featuring the Mako SmartRobotics™ system at South County Hospital in Wakefield.

When asked how patients respond when they are introduced to the idea of their surgery being livestreamed and recorded, which, of course, they sign consent forms for (none are identifiable during the procedures), Dr. Marchand said, “Most of the patients have been asking me: ‘How can I get a video copy?’” ❖

Kent Hospital’s Drs. Laura Forman and Jinen Thakkar collect medical donations to send to India

WARWICK – Having spent years doing disaster relief work in war zones, refugee camps, and impoverished areas around the globe, **DR. JINEN THAKKAR**, Hospitalist, and **DR. LAURA FORMAN**, Chief of Emergency Medicine at Kent Hospital, are now determined to do what they can to help their colleagues in India by organizing a cargo flight of critical medical supplies. They have received more than \$65,000 in donations and 45,000 N95 masks.



Dr. Jinen Thakkar



Dr. Laura Forman

India being treated on the floors with no oxygen, and scarce or no PPE for the health care workers, they knew they had to act by coordinating a mass donation of needed supplies.

“Having worked on the front lines in Rhode Island when we had the highest per capita number of COVID-19 cases in the world (at least among countries that were able to test and report

them), we’ve been struck by the situation facing our colleagues and patients in India. We wanted to do something to help, and have gotten a flight donated,” said Dr. Forman.

Early on while working on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic, Drs. Thakkar and Forman said they were fortunate hospitals in Rhode Island were rapidly able to obtain supplies. Patients never had to go without oxygen, or a bed. And staff never had to go without gloves and masks.

When Drs. Thakkar and Forman learned of patients in

Drs. Forman and Thakkar are working with the World Health Organization’s South-East Asia Regional Office (WHO SEARO), which is coordinating the donation distribution in India. ❖



Medical supplies collected for India await transport at Kent Hospital. [PHOTO COURTESY OF KENT HOSPITAL]