Guide to the Records of Think Surgical, Inc.

NMAH.AC.1378
Alison Oswald
2016
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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title: Records of Think Surgical, Inc.
Identifier: NMAH.AC.1378
Extent: 5.5 Cubic Feet (17 boxes, 1 oversize folder)
Creator: Think Surgical, Inc. (Fremont, California)
Language: English

Collection is in English.
Some materials in German.

Summary: The collection documents the development of ROBODOC™, the first robot to perform surgery on a human in the United States through correspondence, memoranda, press clippings, press releases, engineering drawings, regulatory policies and procedures, photographs, and audiovisual materials.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information
Collection donated by Think Surgical, Inc. through Dr. Mun In-Ki, CEO and President, April 2016.

Related Materials

Materials in the Archives Center
Odex I Walking Robot Collection (AC0203)
Massie/McLurkin Innovative Lives Presentation and Interviews (AC0603)
Computer oral History Collection (AC0196)
Gerber Scientific Instrument Company Records (AC0929)

Processing Information
Collection processed by Alison Oswald, archivist, 2016.

Restrictions
Collection is open for research.
Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Historical

ROBODOC™ was the first robot to perform surgery in the United States. It was developed in 1986 by IBM's Thomas J. Watson Research Center, and researchers at the University of California, Davis. They formed a collaborative initiative to develop a surgical device for Total Hip Arthroplasty (THA). The team included William Bargar, M.D., Howard "Hap" Paul, D.V.M (1949- 1993), and engineers, Brent Mittelstadt and Peter Kazanides. See US Patent 5,769,092 for Computer-aided system for revision total hip replacement surgery and US Patent 5,806,518 for Method and system of positioning surgical robot, 1998. The original company, Integrated Surgical Systems (ISS) was incorporated in 1990.

The goal of ISS was to create a robotic surgical system that would redefine precision joint replacement procedures. Drilling into bone by hand is not always precise, and often requires glue to fill in empty spaces. Additionally there is a danger the bone will splinter. In this regard, ROBODOC is similar to computer-controlled machine tools. ROBODOC "mills" the bone or joint for accurate fitting similar to machine tools.

In May of 1990 the device was successfully tested on dogs. Since 1998 when it received 510 (K) clearance from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for Total Hip Arthroplasty over 28,000 procedures have been performed worldwide.

ROBODOC™ was eventually sold in 2007 to Novatrix Biomedical, Inc. which formed Curexo Medical, Inc. to handle the acquisition of Integrated Surgical Systems, Inc. (ISS). ISS became THINK Surgical, Inc. in 2014.

Scope and Contents

The collection documents the development of ROBODOC™, a robotic surgical system that would redefine precision joint replacement procedures. The collection contains correspondence, memoranda, press clippings, press releases, engineering drawings, regulatory policies and procedures, photographs, and audiovisual materials documenting the development of the ROBODOC™. The collection is strong in documentation about regulatory policies and procedures the company undertook for approval from the Food and Drug Administration.

Arrangement

The collection is divided into six series.

Series 1: Project History and Background Materials, 1985-2003
Series 4: Food and Drug Administration, 1987-2001

Series 5: Press Clippings, 1983-2010


Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Cultures:
- Inventions -- 20th century
- Inventions -- 21st century
- Inventors -- 20th century
- Inventors -- 21st century
- Medical Equipment
- Medical innovations
- Orthopedics
Container Listing

Series 1: Project History and Background Materials, 1985 - 2003

This series consists of background materials and the history of the project primarily through correspondence.

Integrated Surgical Systems (ISS), Inc., of Sacramento California was established in XXXX to develop computer-based, image-driven, surgical robotics systems. The company integrates sophisticated imaging and robotics technologies into precision application-oriented tools for exacting surgical procedures.

The company grew out of by Dr. Howard A. "Hap" Paul (1949-1993) and orthopaedic surgeon Dr. William Bargar (XXXX) collaboration with IBM's Thomas J. Watson Research Center and the University of California, Davis. In 1990, Robodoc™ Surgical Assistant System was successfully used by Dr. Paul to perform the world's first robotic-assisted total hip replacement surgery on a dog. ISS began a limited feasibility study of Robodoc™, authorized by the Food and Drug Administration for human surgery from 1992-1993 at Sutter General Hospital.

The Robodoc™ System consists of two integrated components which comprise the single turnkey system, the Orthodo™c preoperative planning workstation and Robodoc™, the computer controlled surgical robot.

Box 1, Folder 1  Biographical information (William Bargar, Brett Mittelstadt, Hap Paul, and Peter Kazanzides), 2011 - 2011, 1993 - 1993
Box 1, Folder 2  Dr. William Bargar (project time), undated
Box 1, Folder 3  Corporate identity, undated
Includes Integrated Surgical Systems, Inc.; Robodoc, Curexo technology Corporation,; and Think Surgical, Inc.
Box 1, Folder 4  Integrated Surgical Systems, Inc. (company overview), undated
Box 1, Folder 5  Integrated Surgical Systems, Inc. (style guide), undated
Box 1, Folder 6  Interview notes of Hap Paul and William Bargar, 1986 May 7
Box 1, Folder 7  Correspondence, 2003 - 2003, 1985 - 1993
Box 1, Folder 8  University of California, Davis (correspondence)
Includes initial scope of work with IBM.
Box 1, Folder 9  University of California, Davis , 1985 - 1986
Box 1, Folder 10 University of California, Davis , 1988 - 1989
Box 1, Folder 11 Robodoc proposal, 1990
Box 1, Folder 12 Robodoc™, a robotic surgical system, undated
Box 1, Folder 13 Robodoc™, business plan, 1990 March 14
Box 1, Folder 14  Integrated Surgical Systems, Inc., business plan, 1993 September 29

Box 1, Folder 15  ComputerWorld Smithsonian Awards Program, Integrated Surgical Systems, Inc., 1993 June 8

Box 2, Folder 1  Non-homogenous material milling using a robotic manipulator with force controlled velocity, 1993
Joel Zuhars, master thesis, University of California, Davis

Box 2, Folder 2  Non-homogenous material milling using a robotic manipulator with force controlled velocity, [1993?] 
Joel Zuhars master thesis notes

Box 2, Folder 3  Articles about Robodoc™, 1994 - 1998

Box 2, Folder 4  Articles about hip replacement, 1992 - 1993

Box 2, Folder 5  Bauer, Boerner, and Draenert. The Robodoc Assistance in Total Hip Replacement, 1998

Box 2, Folder 7  Integrated Surgical Systems, Inc., Securities and Exchange Commission, Form S-3, registration statement, 1998 December 14

Box 2, Folder 7  Integrated Surgical Systems, Inc., Securities and Exchange Commission, Form 10-Q and 10-QSB, 2001

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This series consists of drawings, correspondence, memoranda, and notes detailing the development of the Robodoc™. The meeting summaries and design review documents provide insight into the review and decision making process for various aspects of development.

Box 3, Folder 2  Software development standard operating procedures, 1995
Box 3, Folder 3  System and method for performing image directed robotic orthopaedic procedures (US 6,033 415), 2000
Box 3, Folder 4  Pendant membrance switch panel , 1991 - 1992
Box 3, Folder 5  Pre-operative plan reading software test, 1992
Box 3, Folder 6  Design review and meeting summaries, 1991
Box 3, Folder 7  Problems with Robodoc™ system (review of November 7, 1991), 1991
Box 3, Folder 8  Design review and meeting summaries, 1992
Box 3, Folder 9  Design review and meeting summaries, 1993 January-1993 April
Box 3, Folder 10 Design review and meeting summaries, 1993 May-1993 June
Box 4, Folder 1  Design review and meeting summaries, 1993 August-1993 December
Box 4, Folder 2  Design review and meeting summaries, 1993 July
Box 4, Folder 3  Design review and meeting summaries, 1994 January
Box 4, Folder 4  Design review and meeting summaries, 1994 February-1994 November
Box 4, Folder 5  Design review memoranda, 1995
Box 4, Folder 6  Staff meeting summaries, 1997
Box 4, Folder 7  Engineering budget planning, 1998
Box 4, Folder 8  Bone motion detection documentation , 1991 - 1992
Box 5, Folder 1  Dacomobile (purchase order), 1991
Box 5, Folder 2  Electronics cabinet (purchase orders, notes, specifications and instructions), 1991
Box 5, Folder 3  Workstation assembly procedure, 1992
Box 5, Folder 4  Procurement specification, screw fastening kinematics plate to kinematic post, 1992 July 2
Box 5, Folder 5  Procurement specifications, pin style spanner wrench for fixator mounting, 1992 July 3
Box 5, Folder 6  Procurement specification, Robodoc thread mounting plate, 1992 July 3
Box 5, Folder 7  Procurement specification for swivel machine leveling mount for leg support, 1992 July 5
Box 5, Folder 8  Design document, isolation transformer, 1992
Box 5, Folder 9  Robodoc, rim box (purchase orders), 1991
Box 5, Folder 10  Anatomic medullary locking (AML) sizes and tolerance data, 1992
Box 5, Folder 11  Pin installation, kit sterilization procedure, 1992
Box 5, Folder 12  Labeling review, 1991 - 1992
Box 5, Folder 13  Specifications for labeling, 1992
Box 5, Folder 14  C.T. pin installation tools, 1992
Box 5, Folder 15  Robodoc operative report form, undated
Box 5, Folder 16  Specifications, pre-operative plan reading software, 1992
Box 5, Folder 17  Anteroposterior lateral fit data, 1997
Box 5, Folder 18  Transferring CT data to PC server (supplemental instructions for CT technicians), [1991?]

Map-folder 1  Robot Interface, RIM box (Drawing #100145), 1992 October 6
             8 drawings
Map-folder 1  Robot Interface, RIM box (Drawing #100145), 1992 October 6
             6 drawings
Map-folder 1  Operating room display stand (Drawing #100187), 1992 October 12
             7 drawings
Map-folder 1  Kinematic diagnostic assembly, 1992 October 15
             1 drawing
Box 17, Folder 1A  Pin location sleeve assembly and bearing sleeve, 1992 October 16
                 10 drawings
Map-folder 1  Orthodoc assembly, 1992 October 19
             6 drawings
Map-folder 1  Robodoc surgical tool control cabinet, 1992 October 21
             6 drawings
Box 17, Folder 1  Drawings, 101198 to 101295 (base for ROBODOC), 1994
   80 drawings

Box 17, Folder 2  Drawings, 101301 to 101375 (base for ROBODOC), 1994
   10 drawings

Box 17, Folder 3  Drawings, Eng 2000 to Eng 3000 (base for ROBODOC), 1994
   87 drawings

Box 17, Folder 4  Drawings, Eng 20033 to Eng 20043 (base for ROBODOC), 1994
   5 drawings

Box 17, Folder 5  Drawings, unidentified and drawing list, 1994 - 1994
   18 drawings

Map-folder 1  Wiring diagram, 1992 February 17

Box 3, Folder 1  Techmedica (implants), 1989 - 1990
   49 drawings

Box 5, Folder 19  Orthodoc™ User Guide for the Orthopædic Surgeon, 1991
Box 6, Folder 1   Orthodoc™ User Guide, 1991 - 1993
Box 6, Folder 2   Orthodoc™ step-by-step templating, 1993
Box 6, Folder 4   Orthodoc™ Bedienungsanleitung, 1991 - 1994
Box 6, Folder 5   Robodoc™ Preoperative Protocols, 1991 - 1993
Box 6, Folder 6   RFI compliance statement for German EMC/RFI law, 1993 April
Box 6, Folder 7   Robodoc™ Surgical Assistant System Postoperative CT Protocol for Robodoc Patients, 1993 April
Box 6, Folder 8   Robodoc™ Preoperative protocols (international edition), 1991 - 1999
Box 6, Folder 9   Robodoc™ Surgical Assistant System Pin Implantation and CT Protocols, 1991 - 1993
Box 7, Folder 1   Robodoc™ Surgical Assistant System and Orthodoc™ preoperative Planning System, 1997
Box 7, Folder 5   Robodoc™ Beidienungsanleitung (German translations), 1995
Box 7, Folder 6   JR3 Universal Force Moment Sensor System Operation Manual, 1993

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This series consists of materials related to Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval of Robodoc™ Surgical Assistant System. The materials include primarily correspondence, clinical trial data and agreements, notes, articles, study protocols, patient consent forms, clinical study case report forms and other materials created for institutional review committees. Many of the clinical trial documents provide condensed information about the device (Robodoc) protocols used, risk analysis, monitoring procedures, and consent forms. Also included is correspondence with Advanced Biosearch Associates (ABA), a contract Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulatory and clinical research firm. ABA was founded in 1979 and is based in Danville, California.

Box 7, Folder 7  Regulations and publications, 1987 - 1988
Box 7, Folder 8  Advanced Biosearch Associates, 1991
Box 8, Folder 1  Robodoc™, brief history with FDA regulations, undated
Box 8, Folder 2  Institutional Review Board (notes and correspondence), 1990 - 1992
Box 8, Folder 3  Robodoc efficacy project, patient consent forms and protocols, 1991
Box 8, Folder 4  Investigational device exemption, comments and suggestions, 1991 January
Box 8, Folder 5  Code of Federal Regulations, Title 21, Part 812, Investigational Device Exemption, 1991 April
Box 8, Folder 6  General ORDB outline for clinical data presentations in premarket notifications and submissions, 1991 June
Box 8, Folder 7  Robotic instrumentation for cementless hip replacement, Department of health and Human Services (grant application), 1991 - 1992
Box 8, Folder 8  Robodoc™ protocols and consent, 1991 November
Box 8, Folder 10  Robodoc™ Surgical Assistant System Investigational Plan, 1992 February 7
Box 9, Folder 1  Robodoc™ Surgical Assistant System Investigational Plan, Volume 1, 1992 May 27
Box 9, Folder 2  Robodoc™ Surgical Assistant System Investigational Device Exemption Applications, Volume 4, Exhibits 1-7, 1992 May 27
Box 9, Folder 3  Robodoc™ Surgical Assistant System Adjunct Clinical Study Protocol, 1992 September 22
Box 10, Folder 1  Robodoc™ Surgical Assistant System Investigational Exemption Application, Volume 4, Exhibits 1-5, 1992 September 8
Box 10, Folder 2  Robodoc™ multi-center trials, 1993
Box 10, Folder 3  Robodoc™ independent radiographic review, 1993 April
Box 10, Folder 4  Robodoc™ Surgical Assistant System multi-center trial (investigational exemption device application), 1993 May 6
Box 10, Folder 5  Robodoc™ Surgical Assistant System multi-center clinical trials, 1993 June 30
Box 10, Folder 6  Robodoc™ canine study protocol, 1993 July 7
Box 10, Folder 7  Robodoc™ Surgical Assistant System IDE number G920035, IDE Supplement, 1993 July 30
Box 11, Folder 1  Integrated Surgical Systems, Inc. (correspondence), 1993 - 1997
Box 11, Folder 2  Experimental subjects bill of rights and consent form, 1992
Box 11, Folder 3  Non-staff assist for Robodoc™ device training, 1993
Box 11, Folder 4  Robodoc™ Surgical Assistant System clinical study case form, 1993
Box 11, Folder 5  Notes for Food and Drug Administration rehearsal, 1996 October 5
Box 11, Folder 6  Robodoc™ Surgical Assistant System (background documents), 1997 December
Box 11, Folder 7  Robodoc™ histology (incudes photographs of canine), 1997
Box 11, Folder 8  Robodoc™ meeting with Food and Drug Administration, 1998 February 19
Box 11, Folder 9  Robodoc™ Surgical Assistant PMA assignment and responsibilities for preparation of PMA sections, 1998 March
Box 11, Folder 10  Robodoc™ Surgical Assistant U.S. multicenter study protocol, 1998 - 1999
Box 11, Folder 11  Conference call notes, 1998-10-11 - 1998-10-11
Box 11, Folder 12  Advisory panel package, 1999-11-04 - 1999-11-04
Box 12, Folder 1  Digimatch Robodoc™ Surgical System internal review committee, 2000
Box 12, Folder 2  Digimatch Robodoc™ Surgical System clinical trial, 2000 - 2001
Box 12, Folder 3  Digimatch Robodoc™ Surgical Assistance System (institutional review board materials), 2000 - 2001
Box 12, Folder 4  Patient questionnaires, 1989
Box 12, Folder 5  Robodoc™ Surgical Assistant System, adjunct clinical study protocol, 1992
Box 12, Folder 6  Robodoc™ clinical feasibility studies, 1993
Box 12, Folder 7  Robodoc™ Surgical Assistant, evaluation and results studies, 1997 December
Series 5: Press Clippings, 1983 - 2010

Box 12, Folder 8  Press clippings, 1983 - 1984
Box 12, Folder 9  Press clippings, 1986
Box 12, Folder 10 Press clippings, 1987 - 1989
Box 12, Folder 11 Press clippings, 1990 - 1991
Box 13, Folder 1  Press clippings, 1992
Box 13, Folder 2  Press clippings, 1993
Box 13, Folder 3  Robodoc™ clinical trial announcement (press kit0 , 1993 September 28
    Image(s)
Box 13, Folder 4  Press clippings, 1994 - 1995
Box 13, Folder 5  Press clippings, 1997
Box 13, Folder 6  Press clippings, 1998
Box 13, Folder 7  Press clippings, 2000 - 2001
Box 13, Folder 8  Press clippings, 2002
Box 13, Folder 9  Press clippings, 2003
Box 13, Folder 10 Press clippings, 2004
Box 13, Folder 11 Press clippings, 2005
Box 13, Folder 12 Press clippings, 2006
Box 13, Folder 13 Press clippings, 2007 - 2008
Box 13, Folder 14 Press clippings, 2010
    Image(s)
Box 13, Folder 15 Press clippings, undated
Box 13, Folder 16 Techmedica product literature, 1986
Box 13, Folder 17 Photographs , undated
    Sutter General Hospital orthopaedic surgeons and staff

Box 14, Item AC1378-OV0001  University of California, Davis, School of Medicine, television coverage of ROBODOC, 1988 April 25
1 videocassettes (vhs)
KGO-TV, Channel 7, 6:00 pm

Box 14, Item AC1378-OV0002  Sacramento News 10, 1987 February 17
1 videocassettes (vhs)
Techmedia, Dr. Bargar and Dr. Paul at University of California Davis

Box 14, Item AC1378-OV0003  Robo-Dock, undated
1 videocassettes (vhs)
Hap Paul, D.V.M.,Assistant Clinical professor, Orthopaedics, University of California, Davis

Box 14, Item AC1378-OV0004  Robodoc, IBM, 1989
1 videocassettes (vhs)
Dr. William Bargar

Box 14, Item AC1378-OV0005  ROBODOC, 1989 April 1
1 videocassettes (vhs)
KTXL Beyond Tomorrow

Box 14, Item AC1378-OV0006  First News 3, 1989 February 14
1 videocassettes (vhs)
KVBC TV

Box 14, Item AC1378-OV0007  Robo-Doc , 1990 May 3-1990 May 10
1 videocassettes (vhs)
Media coverage

Box 14, Item AC1378-OV0008  ROBODOC, 1990 July 1-1990 September 30
1 videocassettes (vhs)
Media coverage

Box 14, Item AC1378-OV0009  ROBODOC at Sutter General Hospital, 1992 November 9
1 videocassettes (vhs)
Press conference related

Box 15, Item AC1378-OV0010  First Robodoc cementless total hip replacement, 1992 November 7
1 videocassettes (vhs)
Tom Lippert Productions, news release

Box 15, Item AC1378-OV0011  First ROBODOC cementless total hip replacement, 1992 November 7
1 videocassettes (vhs)
Tom Lippert Productions, 30:00 minute version

Box 15, Item AC1378-OV0012  Sutter General Hospital, 1992
1 videocassettes (vhs)
ROBODOC media coverage
Box 15, Item AC1378-OV0013  
ROBODOC, undated  
1 videocassettes (vhs)  
Media coverage on KPNX and WBRZ television

Box 15, Item AC1378-OV0014  
Channel 10, undated  
1 videocassettes (vhs)  
Dr. William Bargar

Box 15, Item AC1378-OV0015  
ROBODOC, 2001 September 20  
1 videocassettes (vhs)  
Total Running Time: 04:25

Box 15, Item AC1378-OV0016  
Channel 10, 2002 April 19  
1 videocassettes (vhs)  
Dr. William Bargar

Box 15, Item AC1378-OV0017  
Robo-Assisted Total Hip Arthroplasty, 2002  
1 videocassettes (vhs)  
Total Running Time: 12 minutes

Box 15, Item AC1378-OV0018  
Integrated Surgical Systems, ROBODOC #1, undated  
1 videocassettes (vhs)

Box 15, Item AC1378-OV0019  
Integrated Surgical Systems, ROBODOC #1, undated  
1 videocassettes (vhs)

Box 15, Item AC1378-OV0020  
Channel 13, ROBODOC, undated  
1 videocassettes (vhs)  
KOVR television, includes Dr. William Bargar and Dr. Blumenfeld

Box 16, Item AC1378-OV0021  
Dr. William Bargar talk  
1 videocassettes (vhs)  
Total Running Time: 06:00 minutes

Box 16, Item AC1378-OV0022  
Integrated Surgical Systems, ROBODOC, undated  
1 videocassettes (vhs)

Box 16, Item AC1378-OV0023  
Immi, undated  
1 videocassettes (vhs)  
Engineering copy

Box 16, Item AC1378-OV0024-25  
Integrated Surgical Systems, ROBODOC II  
1 videocassettes (vhs)  
Engineering demo copy

Box 16, Item AC1378-DVD0026  
ROBODOC 3.4, 2008 March 4  
1 electronic discs (dvd)

Box 16, Item AC1378-OV0027  
Dr. Wiliam Bargar video with Food and Drug Administration, undated  
1 electronic discs (dvd)
Box 16, Item AC1378-
DVD0028  Dr. William Bargar, undated
1 electronic discs (dvd)
B-roll, scenes 1 and 2

Box 16, Item AC1378-
DVD0029  ORTHODOC 5.0, 2009 November 20
1 electronic discs (dvd)
Training video

Box 16, Item AC1378-
CD0030  ROBODOC brochure materials, undated
1 electronic discs (cd)
Power point

Box 16, Item AC1378-
DVD0031  Four surgeries, undated
1 electronic discs (dvd)

Box 16, Item AC1378-
DVD0032  ROBODOC Presentation, undated
1 electronic discs (dvd)

Box 16, Item AC1378-
DVD0033  ROBODOC, undated
1 electronic discs (dvd)
THA post and TKA

Box 16, Item AC1378-
CD0034  ROBODOC cement removal, 2008-04 - 2008-04
1 electronic discs (cd)

Box 16, Item AC1378-
DVD0035  ROBODOC, undated
1 electronic discs (dvd)
Hip revision and primary knee procedures

Box 16, Item AC1378-
DVD0036  Discovery Channel, Smart Tools Excerpt, 2004-02
1 electronic discs (cd)
ORTHODOC and ROBODOC presentations

Box 16, Item AC1378-
DVD0037  ROBODOC, Discovery Channel Smart Tools Excerpt, undated
1 electronic discs (cd)

Box 16, Item AC1378-
DVD0038  ROBODOC segment on Discovery Channel, undated
1 electronic discs (cd)

Box 16, Item AC1378-
DVD0039  ROBODOC, knee procedure with animation, [2008?]
1 electronic discs (cd)

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