

# Science Lends Art A Hand *and a “Mini” Revolution Begins*

Like a concert pianist, a surgeon's hands must be deft and sure – their artistry taking us places once only imagined. Clifton Lewis, MD, is just such a doctor. And Sarasota Memorial is where he performs.

Mentored by surgical icon Denton Cooley, MD, who performed the first successful heart transplant in the United States and the first artificial heart in man, Dr. Lewis has earned an international reputation for his own pioneering work in minimally invasive cardiac surgery. And now he has been joined by another set of hands, every bit as exacting and talented as his own.

And they belong to a robot.

A technological breakthrough, the da Vinci-S surgical robot allows Lewis to perform the most delicate of heart surgeries – bypasses and complicated valve repairs – through keyhole-sized “mini” incisions rather than large cuts through the ribs and breastbone, with unparalleled precision and control. The robot's sophisticated design and instrumentation exceed the natural range of motion of the human hand, while its state-of-the-art imaging technology provides a real-time, 3-dimensional interior view of the heart – at a magnification 10 times that of the human eye.

For Dr. Lewis' patients, this translates to less trauma to the body, less loss of blood, less risk of infection and faster recoveries. So, instead of needing months to get back to normal activities, most people are back within a week.

Indeed, Dr. Lewis' minimally invasive surgical techniques have earned him honors as one of America's Top Doctors. And the successful outcomes of his patients continue to help Sarasota Memorial rank among America's best hospitals for cardiac care.

