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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRING CALFING NO HARDSHIP FOR INDIANA COUNTY FARMER THANKS TO ROBOT-ASSISTED HYSTERECTOMY SURGERY

LATROBE, PA, February 29, 2012 ... Life on a 3,000 acre farm leaves no time for illness or injury, especially when 100 head of beef cattle will be giving birth in March. Thanks to robot-assisted hysterectomy surgery performed by gynecologist Tracy Gemmell, MD, at Excelsa Health Latrobe Hospital, Sue Fabin will be on the range this spring with little more than a few inch-long incisions as evidence she ever was hospitalized.

Fabin of Center Township, Indiana County, had surgery Dec. 28, went home the next day and was shopping for groceries on New Year's Eve. "I feel so good, I have to keep reminding myself to take it easy, and avoid lifting," Fabin, 47, said a month after surgery. "When I ask my son, Andy, to carry the laundry downstairs, I think he thinks I'm slacking off because I'm doing great."

Farming is a family affair with Sue, husband Rick and their children Andy and Samantha managing the herd and soybean crop. And had robot-assisted prostate surgery been offered by Rick Fabin's doctor, this minimally invasive technique would be the standard against which all Fabin health needs is measured.

"I learned about this type of surgery after my husband had prostate cancer," recalled Fabin, "Given my experience, I wish it would have been available to him. I would never recommend anything else. It's the difference between being laid up for six weeks to two months following a traditional procedure versus a minimally invasive surgery. Nobody wants to be off their feet, and when you have a family business, not to mention an active family, you can't afford to."

Surgeons at Excelsa Health have been offered robot-assisted surgery since 2009. The da Vinci robotic system enables complex surgery using a minimally invasive approach. It helps Excelsa surgeons achieve greater precision, better range of motion and increased visibility in a variety of complex procedures, often with improved outcomes. Patients experience less scarring and pain from the smaller incisions, leading to a faster recovery.

Using the da Vinci surgical system, the surgeon operates while seated at a console viewing a 3D image of the surgical field. The surgeon manipulates the master controls below the display, and the system translates those hand, wrist and finger movements into precise, real-time movements of surgical instruments inside the patient.

Excelsa is the first health care organization in the region outside of Pittsburgh to have the da Vinci system. It is used by urologists, gynecologists and general surgeons for prostate surgery, gynecologic surgery (including hysterectomy and uterine fibroids), various types of cancer surgery and general surgery, including bariatrics, hernia, small bowel resection and others.

To learn more about robot-assisted surgery, or to view a procedure, visit www.excelsahealth.org. For a physician referral, contact the Excelsa Health Call Center, [1-877-771-1234](tel:1-877-771-1234).