

## From Development to Daily Practice

**Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC) in Leiden, the Netherlands, is focused on high quality research, education and patient care with a strong scientific orientation. It was the first major hospital in the world to welcome a SurgiCube®. Wim van Galen, LUMC's Nursing Manager for Day Care and Short Stay Patients, outlines what a difference the system has made in Ophthalmology at the hospital.**

Just over a decade ago, the LUMC faced a dilemma in day care. Small surgery cases, such as many of those for ophthalmology, were increasing, but additional access to the operating room was limited. Creating a new operating room specifically for daycare procedures was not an option due to prohibitive costs and an alternative surgery space was needed.

### A Brilliant Concept

“One of our eye surgeons had a leaflet about the SurgiCube®, which was still a prototype at that time, and suggested that it might be something for us,” said Wim. “We found the concept behind the SurgiCube® brilliant. We contacted the organization to find out more and decided to go for it! In 2006, we welcomed the first prototype SurgiCube® into the Day Care Department and have had absolutely no regrets since.”

As the LUMC's initial SurgiCube® system was a prototype, the Day Care Department became involved in providing feedback into its development.

“Initially, I worked directly with the inventor of the SurgiCube®, Dr. Gerrit Melles. We were able to collaborate and develop some improvements,” explained Wim. “Then, Ramón Hilberink took over development and facilitated the change from the prototype SurgiCube® to the first model. We quickly established a very good connection with him. The trust, communication and responsiveness we were able to establish with SurgiCube® has been very important.”

“In addition, receiving the first SurgiCube® has given us a unique role in introducing others to new possibilities,” he continued. “We have welcomed visitors from all over the world, who were interested to come and have a look at the new system.”

### Additional Surgical Capacity

Wim and his team found the SurgiCube® very effective and easy to use. Specialists and assistants soon adapted to using the new system. Even though some had initial reservations about the new technology, the benefits soon became obvious. The SurgiCube® brought surgical capacity into the Day Care Department, relieved pressure on both the LUMC operating rooms and departments connected with daycare, such as Ophthalmology, and created additional extra capacity for surgery within the hospital.

“Patients treated in the SurgiCube® are very satisfied with the system,” said Wim. “It means their overall length of time spent in the hospital is much less compared to that required for treatment in a conventional operating room. While the operating procedure time is the same with the SurgiCube®, there is less preparation for surgery required than in a conventional operating room. The costs of running an operating room are extremely expensive - far higher per minute than with the SurgiCube® - so the SurgiCube® has effectively provided us with a way of ‘saving OR minutes’. This means a far better efficiency – more patients can be treated and the cost price per surgery is less.”

Other LUMC Departments expressed an interest in the system for performing small surgery procedures and the Dermatology Department now utilizes the system for one day per week alongside the Ophthalmology team who occupy it for two days a week.

### Reliable Technology

Over the years, the LUMC's SurgiCube® has required a few small alterations to ensure compliance with ever-changing hospital regulations.

"I'm very happy with the system. It's wonderful to work in the SurgiCube®," concluded Wim. "And we've never had any disruption of the system in over 10 years of use."

### Quote

*"The SurgiCube® has effectively provided us with a way of 'saving OR minutes'."*

### Wim van Galen

Wim van Galen trained in Nursing, Anesthesiology and Management at Harderwijk and Leiden, both in the Netherlands. He was appointed Nursing Manager at Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Leiden, the Netherlands, in 2002. Wim has managed the Day Care and Short Patient Stay Departments at the LUMC since 2013.