Thai university backs virtual reality simulation technology

Mahidol in Bangkok opens advanced training centre at Faculty of Dentistry

BANGKOK, Thailand: The Faculty of Dentistry at Mahidol University in Bangkok in Thailand has introduced computer-aided simulation technology to its dental programme. Since June, students at the faculty have been trained in the new Dental Simulation Centre equipped with 120 DentSim units, which was opened on the school’s 45th anniversary.

With more than 600 undergraduates, the faculty is currently one of the largest dental learning institutions in the South-East Asian country. Prof. Passari Nisalak, dean of the faculty, said that the new technology, developed and marketed by US manufacturer Image Navigation, is going to enhance the learning experience for students through the simulation of a full clinical environment.

By using DentSim simulators, students will be able to develop their cognitive and motor skills in dental surgery, as well as other fields, such as implantology, prosthodontics and endodontics, he said.

The school is estimated to have invested several million US dollars in the technology. The DentSim system is based on GPS technology and uses a camera to track a set of LEDs that send infra-red signals, giving students live feedback in a virtual simulation of a treatment area that includes a muckin with an adjustable head and lifelike mouth.

The system has been used in dental education since 1998, when the University of Pennsylvania installed the first units in its School of Dental Medicine. It is backed by 56 studies and over 100,000 hours of student learning, the manufacturer said. According to DentSim figures, over 400 DentSim units are currently in use worldwide, primarily in dental schools in the US, Japan and Taiwan.

“By integrating state-of-the-art technology, advanced expert performance teaching methodologies and an innovative curriculum, Mahidol is setting a new standard for dental education,” says Image Navigation CEO Lawrence Obstfeld commented in view of the latest acquisition.

Virtual methods have increasingly found their way into dental education. Along with SimDent, a few other systems are available on the market, including the Simodent trainer by Dutch technology provider Moog, which is based on high-fidelity flight simulation technology and used by a number of dental schools in Australia (see page 5, DT Asia Pacific, Vol. 11, No. 1+2).

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**Upcoming Webinars**

**NEW TECHNOLOGY TRENDS IN DENTAL PRACTICE**

Paul Feuerstein, DMD

08:00 PM (EST)

An introductory look at new caries detection systems (including early detection/CAMBRA/decalcification), 3D digital radiography.

**Participants will learn:**

- How to understand high tech diagnostic aids and digital impression/CAD systems
- To use digital and 3D radiography and associated implant and treatment planning
- To make intelligent purchase decisions

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**DIABETES AND PERIODONTAL DISEASE MANAGEMENT**

Luciana M. Shaddox, DDS, MS, PhD

08:00 PM (EST)

In this webinar, the association between Diabetes and Periodontal Diseases will be elucidated, with special emphasis to how it impacts Periodontal health and the management of diabetic patients with periodontal disease.

**Participants will learn:**

- How does Diabetes impact Periodontal Health and how Periodontitis can impact Diabetes control
- How to best manage Diabetic Patients with Periodontal Disease
- How to avoid diabetic emergencies in your office
- How to help diabetic patients maintain their periodontal health and concomitant metabolic control

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