

# Simulation comes to arthroscopy surgery

## GMV uses simulators for surgeon training

*Madrid, 24 September 2007.* - For over 50 years now simulators have been widely used in the world of aviation, space, the navy, army and nuclear energy plus other industries of high risk to human life for training their professionals in difficult and demanding tasks. The success of flight simulators shows just how important and useful simulation technology could be for specialized medical training. As part of this ongoing trend GMV, leader in Spanish surgery simulation, has developed insightMIST®.

The specialist academic institutions have now definitively plumped for the use of surgery simulators. The first institution within its category in Spain to advocate the use of simulator-based surgery training is the Foundation for Healthcare Education and Training (*Fundación para la Educación y Formación Sanitarias*) of Madrid's Medical Association (*Ilustre Colegio Oficial de Médicos de Madrid*).

This decision chimes in perfectly with current trends in Europe and America towards greater patient safety while also meeting the need for ever shorter training periods. The UK's Royal college of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, in its 2002 report "Discussion Document on Further Training for Doctors in Difficulty" recommends the inclusion of virtual-reality simulators in surgical training syllabi.

The insightMIST® equipment is now being used throughout Europe in various arthroscopy courses on a leasing or owned basis. There are now permanent insightMIST® facilities in Madrid, in Manchester's prestigious NHS Wrightington Hospital (UK) and in Rockville (MD, USA). The list of insightMIST® clients features such prestigious names as MSD, Depuy Mitek, Conmed Linvatec and the Southern California Orthopedic Institute (Van Nuys, CA).

Training based on insightMIST® is a sine qua non in view of society's increasing demand for greater objectivity in the training and assessment of doctors and surgeons. The insightMIST® system is highly intuitive and user friendly. The hospital needs no extra personnel or rooms. Resident doctors can use it without the added stress of possibly harming the patient, gaining experience with rare pathologies and analyzing their training sessions. insightMIST® offers easily-affordable across-the-board training to those who may have hitherto lacked resources and opportunities.

InsightMIST® is the ideal solution for doctors keen to learn and hone their skills in a short period of time, since the other top-up and specialist training options are all beset by drawbacks:

- Operating-theatre time is expensive and there is precious little downtime for these theatres to be used for training purposes.
- The use of corpses for surgery training purposes is cumbersome and expensive; they are increasingly hard to come by and call for a special infrastructure.
- Practicing on live animals raises many ethical issues.

Further interest in this subject was recently shown in the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress of the Spanish Arthroscopy Association (*Asociación Española de Artroscopia: AEA*), held in Seville from 16 to 18 May 2007. The round table discussion called Learning and Teaching in Shoulder Arthroscopy (with the participation of Dr. Golanó, Dr. Castagna, Dr. Galindo and Dr. Levy), underlined the importance of simulation for objective learning and assessment in this profession. In the words of Dr. Ofer Levy from the Royal Berkshire Hospital and Capiro Reading Hospital, a new paradigm of objective assessment is now being born and this is changing the face of specialist medical education. He also pointed out that students need to receive training until acquiring a reliable skill level. In other words the system may swing from a quantitative time-based training scheme to a qualitative method based on objective assessment of students' skills. Moreover, studies have now been published on the correlation between operating-theatre practice and surgery skills training based on virtual reality surgery simulators. Simulator-based practice has also been shown to speed up trainee surgeons' learning curves and therefore saves invaluable time for experienced surgeons who need to combine hands-on healthcare work with teaching activities.

In 2006 AEA's Education Committee officially declared insightMIST<sup>®</sup> to be a useful aid in the teaching of arthroscopy skills. Since then the Association itself and various commercial houses have topped up many of their training courses with simulator practice.

In its ongoing endeavor to promote specialist medical education, GMV, as Spanish leader in surgery simulation, has recently collaborated with the Madrid Medical Association to organize a practical course with virtual simulation, largely based on the use of insightMIST<sup>®</sup> .

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GMV is a private and wholly Spanish technological business group trading on a worldwide scale. It provides services of consultancy and engineering, software- and hardware-development, integration of turnkey systems and operational support.

Founded in 1984, GMV provides technologically advanced solutions for the medical field from its AHT ("Advanced Healthcare Technologies") division. Our range in this sector takes in all the following:

- Virtual-realty surgical training simulators
- Anatomical modeling
- Telemedicine systems
- Mobility solutions
- Healthcare vehicle tracking and management systems
- Aid systems for the handicapped



For more information on insightMIST® please contact:

Jorge Potti  
Director insightMIST®  
or  
Almudena Sánchez  
Desarrollo de negocio

Isaac Newton, 11 (PTM)  
28760 Tres Cantos  
Madrid  
[www.gmv.com](http://www.gmv.com)  
[www.insightmist.com](http://www.insightmist.com)

[marketing\\_gmv@gmv.es](mailto:marketing_gmv@gmv.es)

For more information on GMV:  
Pedro Schoch  
Director de Marketing y Comunicación

Ariadne Comunicación  
Gabriel Vaqueiro  
Tel: 91 557 03 24  
[gvaqueiro@ariadne.es](mailto:gvaqueiro@ariadne.es)