



Towards the completion of the simulator and assistant prototypes of the RASimAs project

More than 30 European experts meet to work on the delivery of the prototypes.

Two years after launching their project in Aachen (Germany), the scientists, physicians and industrials of the RASimAs team met at the Bangor University (Bangor, United Kingdom). The RASimAs project aims at providing a new virtual reality platform to medical doctors in order to assist and train them during regional anaesthesia practice.

The Regional Anaesthesia Simulator and Assistant (RASimAs) project aims at providing both a simulator and an assistant in order to train medical doctors at the practise of Regional Anaesthesia and assist them during the actual operation. The ambitious project is coordinated by Prof. Thomas Deserno from the Department of Medical Informatics at Uniklinik RWTH Aachen (Germany) and gathers a consortium of 14 academic, clinical and industrial partners from ten different European countries. The RASimAs project is funded with 3.3 million Euros by the European Union under the Seventh Framework Programme.

Based on effective and intense collaboration between the partners, the simulator and assistant are in the way of being evaluated in the clinical sites. Technically, both are based on patient-specific models which are generated merging patient-based imaging and general virtual physiological human (VPH) models. The simulator demonstrates the key features of the regional anaesthesia (patient and ultrasound views, virtual ultrasound guided nerve blocking, and haptic guided needle insertion procedure). The assistant can guide the physicians in the interpretation of ultrasound images in real time using 3D images. The challenge for the next years will consist of validating these prototypes through a multi-centre clinical trial performed in Germany, Belgium, and Ireland.



The RASimAs consortium meeting at Bangor, United Kingdom

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