

The world's first truly integrated tele-ultrasound to empower the next generation of healthcare professionals in South Africa

- *Philips and the University of Johannesburg (UJ), Faculty of Health Sciences recommit to strengthening South Africa's health system through world-class clinical education and training*
- *Ongoing collaboration at UJ's state-of-the-art Medical Simulation Lab has imparted critical care skills and experience to over 700 students*
- *Lumify - the world's first truly integrated tele-ultrasound solution, now introduced in UJ, to improve future health outcomes.*
- *The importance of skilled healthcare professionals to transform the healthcare system for the better, a key highlight of the Presidential Health Summit*

Johannesburg, South Africa – Philips South Africa and the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Johannesburg (UJ) have strengthened their commitment to the education and training of the next generation of the healthcare workforce by renewing their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) related to the high-tech Medical Simulation Lab that was inaugurated in UJ in September 2014.



To date, over 700 students have undergone hands-on training through accurate simulations of imitated medical emergency settings ranging from labour and delivery, to trauma and heart attacks. And through this, the Medical Simulation Lab has prepared students to operate under a pressurised work environment, ultimately enabling these students to gain crucial experience in a range of realistic clinical scenarios, before being faced with real patients and emergency situations.

The renewal of the MoU follows the national agenda discussion at the recent Presidential Health Summit, where Deputy President, David Mabuzahighlighted the importance

of having skilled healthcare professionals to address issues related to healthcare access in the country, along with the need to improve diagnosis, treatment, and care, especially in the area of telemedicine.

In support of ultimately bridging these gaps, the collaboration today introduced a new addition to the existing Medical Simulation Lab; the world's first truly integrated tele-ultrasound solution – Philips Lumify with Reacts – while simultaneously using the occasion to launch the system in the South African market.

Lumify, designed for emergency departments and urgent care centres, as well as other clinical settings, is an entirely new way of delivering ultrasound technology to healthcare providers and their

patients; offering high-quality imaging from a compatible smart device connected to a Philips ultrasound transducer.

The integrated app-based, portable-ultrasound system breaks down barriers for point-of-care providers – from clinicians, teaching institutions, medical students and residents to emergency care personnel, and disaster relief organisations – by offering advanced, high-quality ultrasound technology wherever care is needed.

“We are delighted that our longstanding partnership with Philips continues, thus ensuring that modern cutting edge products, such as Lumify, continue to be available to students in our Simulation Lab environment. Lumify is a novel product that will allow health science students from a number of different professions to see first-hand the advantages of being able to scan and share medical images, which may assist in speeding up the diagnosis process and inform clinical decision making,” says Prof Shahed Nalla (Acting) Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences.

The Lumify point-of-care ultrasound system is further enhanced with the Reacts platform that gives it its tele-medicine capability, allowing real-time remote collaboration with experts during an ultrasound examination, no matter the distance. This means, a professor can go on virtual ultrasound rounds with students, helping them learn anatomy and probe positioning quickly and efficiently, unrestricted by location.

The Lumify Reacts platform connects clinicians around the globe in real time by turning a compatible smart device into an integrated tele-ultrasound solution, combining two-way audio-visual calls with live ultrasound streaming. This additional innovation in the Lumify ultrasound brings endless possibilities to its users both inside and outside hospital walls.

“Our collaboration with UJ has already made a big contribution to the local healthcare needs; we are transforming healthcare in South Africa by enhancing the individual performance of the next generation of healthcare professionals,” says [Jasper Westerink](#), CEO, Philips Africa. “Not only has the Medical Simulation Lab improved the clinical competencies of UJ’s health sciences graduates, but it has also been utilised for training of paramedics and medical specialists from outside the University. UJ has proved to be the ideal partner to bring this concept to life, and we now look forward to the next phase of continued collaboration and research related to new technologies in the emergency care environment”.

The new technology that is now incorporated into the Medical Simulation Lab, will contribute to simulating the entire clinical process; allowing students to track progress of a single patient through the various wards in an emergency situation - pre-hospital emergency care, emergency department (for casualty), general ward and an intensive care unit (ICU).

“It is important for us at UJ that our health science students demonstrate sound clinical reasoning and mastery of core psychomotor skills in the simulated environment before they are sent to work and learn in the authentic clinical setting where they will encounter real patients,” says Prof [Craig Lambert](#), Head of the Department of Emergency Medical Care, at University of Johannesburg. “As a company focused on innovations in the healthcare sector, Philips has continued to play an integral part in training our students on the latest technology in healthcare, and we look forward to continue this long term partnership to the benefit of our facility specifically, and South African healthcare in general.”