UNIKLINIK RWTHAACHEN

PRESSEMITTEILUNG

RASimAs: First Results of Excellence

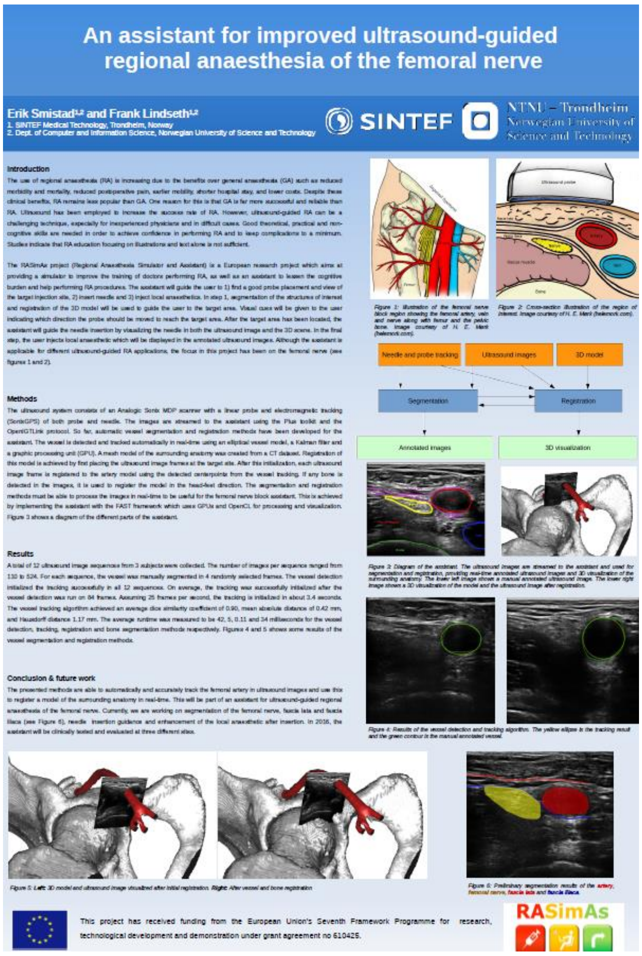
Erik Smistad and Frank Lindseth of SINTEF Medical Technology, Norway, have been awarded at the MedViz Conference 2015

Aachen, 08.07.2015 – In 2013, the European Union has granted 3.3 million Euros under the Seventh Framework Programme for the Regional Anaesthesia Simulator and Assistant (RASimAs) project, which aims at establishing Regional Anaesthesia in Europe's daily routine of patient care. Regional Anaesthesia has several benefits for the patients such as earlier mobilization and release from hospital as well as a strong economic impact: savings of up to 100.000 Euros per operation theatre per year have been estimated for the health systems in Europe.

The RASimAs project has gathered experts from ten countries in a consortium of academic (scientist specialized in medical imaging, computer science or virtual reality), industrial (specialized in medical devices) and clinical partners (specialized in anaesthesia). After half of the projects duration, the first results of excellence now have been acknowledged by the scientific community.

Dr. Erik Smistad, a young researcher in Norway and part of the RASimAs team has presented a poster at MedViz Conference 2015 in Bergen, Norway, 15th -16th of June, 2015. MedViz "from vison to decision" is a cluster of groups performing interdisciplinary research in advanced image analysis and visualisation bridging the gap between "bench and bedside". Erik presented novel methods for segmenting structures such as the femoral artery and nerve in ultrasound images of the femoral region, together with registration of a CT-based 3D model used to guide the user to the target area – a key component of RASimAs that has been developed under guidance of Dr. Frank Lindseth, a senior researcher at SINTEF.

"From the first moment, I was fascinated by the RASimAs idea to fuse state-of-the-art algorithms, hardware technology and medical models for patient's benefit", stated Erik, who submitted his PhD thesis on medical image segmentation for improved surgical navigation at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), before he became a full time researcher at SINTEF Medical Technology, Trondheim, Norway.“ Hence, I was happy when being offered the research position in this project and immediately accepted.” “We are happy that Erik has joined our team, since he is indeed contributing to the state of the art in medical sciences and technology”, added Dr. Frank Lindseth, who already advised the PhD work of Erik. Prof. Dr. Thomas Deserno, Uniklinik RWTH Aachen, Germany, who leads the European RASimAs consortium, adds: "For sure, this will not be the last award we will receive for our most-innovative work in RASimAs" when congratulating Erik and Frank for their outstanding research.



The awarded poster presented at MedViz 2015

Dr. Erik Smistad and Prof. Antonella Zanna Munthe-Kaas, Chairman of the MedViz 2015 Poster Session.

Further information:

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About Uniklinik RWTH Aachen

Uniklinik RWTH Aachen is a supramaximal healthcare provider that combines patient-oriented medicine and nursing with world-class teaching and research. The University Hospital covers the entire spectrum of medicine with 34 specialist clinics, 25 institutes and five interdisciplinary units. Outstandingly qualified teams of doctors, nurses and scientists commit themselves competently to the patient's health. Bundling healthcare, research and teaching in one central building provides optimum conditions for intensive interdisciplinary dialogue and a dense clinical and scientific network. Around 6,000 personnel provide patient-oriented medical care and nursing in complianace with recognised quality standards. The University Hospital has 1,240 beds and treats approximately 47,000 inpatients and 153,000 outpatients every year.

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