

Practice Until You Become a Doctor

Since winter semester 2008/2009, Freiburg medical students can specifically train their medical and communicative skills: At the Student Training Center (StudiTZ) the students practice standard techniques on synthetic models. StudiTZ has now received a ultrasound device from the alumni of the University of Freiburg.

Dr. Klaus Müller presses the ultrasound transducer fearlessly onto the lower abdomen. Simultaneously, the red dot of his laser pointer points to two dark tubes on the monitor. “And here you can clearly recognize the venous drainage pathways of the liver,” explains the radiologist. Both medical students nod. The three are occupied with the new



Fukuda UF-4000 ultrasound device that StudiTZ acquired with generous support from the booster association Alumni Freiburg e.V. After receiving a guided tour of StudiTZ, many alumni had expressed their desire to help the center purchase one of these devices.

Margret Böhme presents the Student Training Center with the new ultrasound device, purchased with funds from Alumni Freiburg e.V.

The beginnings of the new institution go back to early 2002, when the Board of Medical Licensing Regulations required that the university include more practical elements in its medical training program. That meant providing new equipment for students to practice with, a costly endeavor that could only be satisfactorily resolved with the introduction of student tuition in 2007. StudiTZ was established on the initiative of the Dean of Students for Human Medicine, but it was only able to become what it is today thanks to student involvement. The center provides medical students the chance to train on medical equipment and life-like synthetic dummies under the supervision of doctors or student tutors. The equipment and the tutor teams are funded exclusively by student tuition.

The facility offers medical students the possibility to train all important medical procedures from their first clinical semester on. In seven different rooms, each with its own purpose, the students practice basic techniques like inserting an IV, listening to the sounds of the heart and lungs, conducting an ultrasound on the abdomen, or performing resuscitation. At StudiTZ students can complete the necessary tasks in their own rhythm and at their own pace. They are supervised by a team of specialists and tutors. The response of the users is very positive, and their numbers are rising, reports Dr. Sabine Diwo, an anesthesiologist at the University Medical Center and director of StudiTZ. Jasmin Wulf, a medical student in her ninth semester, who has tutored in StudiTZ for two years, adds: “The practice possibilities relieve the students of a significant burden. It simply gives the students self-assurance to be able to, for example, practice with an ultrasound device before performing the procedure on a patient. Furthermore, in departments such as gynecological studies it is also good to be technically certified, and therefore students must practice!” Both Dr. Sabine Diwo and Jasmin Wulf assert

that it is primarily the patient who profits. Dr. Sabine Diwo adds: "People are living longer, and medicine practice is thus becoming more important. And who does not want to be treated by a doctor who has enjoyed the excellent education our students receive at the University of Freiburg and StudiTZ?"