



Rocky Vista University Montana College of Osteopathic Medicine (RVU-MCOM) Implements Innovative Virtual Reality Program

[June 19, 2023 – Billings, MT] Rocky Vista University Montana College of Osteopathic Medicine (RVU-MCOM) is partnering with Perspectus, Inc., a Colorado-based virtual and mixed reality technology firm, enabling more students to study human anatomy in the physical and virtual space.

Perspectus VR is a patented software platform that enables students to study anatomy in an immersive 3D environment where they can manipulate anatomical structures in a virtual space and volumize actual patient (MRI and CT) scans to further understand medical diagnoses. Going from two-dimensional anatomical diagrams to viewing and manipulating anatomy in 3D fills the missing link to building critical clinical reasoning.

“We’ve seen how the integration of virtual reality (VR) learning into academia enables our students to approach subjects such as gross anatomy, physiology, and medical simulations uniquely and innovatively,” says MCOM’s Chair of the Biomedical Sciences Department Dr. Michael Zawada. “We’re excited to offer this incredible program to our students on the Montana campus. Providing students with the ability to view and explore anatomical structures and pathologies more accurately and comprehensively will greatly enhance many aspects of their medical education.”

Similar to its other campuses, RVU-MCOM will feature a dedicated VR lab. Anatomists plan to use the software and leverage its VR spatial recordings in conjunction with cadaver lab work. The adoption of Perspectus VR by the Montana campus confirms RVU’s commitment to using cutting-edge technology to reach large numbers of students as it continues to fill the gaps in healthcare education.

As confirmed by a new peer-reviewed study published in 2023 in the Medical Science Educator Journal, Perspectus VR anatomy content maintains the rigor of traditional gross anatomy labs, while improving student outcomes and engagement. During early testing at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, the Perspectus software increased understanding of spatial relationships and anatomical systems for 87% of students.

This technology is just one example of the investment RVU-MCOM has made with its flagship Montana College of Osteopathic Medicine (MCOM). This will be the state's first four-year medical school with a dedicated campus and will feature a 138,000 square foot technologically advanced medical education building. The campus will welcome its first cohort of students in July 2023.

Montana will be the third RVU campus to host Perspectus VR, joining the Parker, Colorado, and Ivins, Utah, campuses who are moving into their third year with the technology.

For information on Perspectus VR, visit www.perspectustech.com

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About Rocky Vista University (RVU)

RVU is a health-sciences university based in Parker, Colorado; Ivins, Utah. RVU; and Billings, Montana founded in 2006 and opened its doors in August of 2008, enrolling students in its four-year program of study leading to the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) degree in the University's College of Osteopathic Medicine (RVUCOM). The Ivins Campus matriculated its first class in 2017. RVU is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), a commission of the North Central Association. RVUCOM is accredited by the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA). RVU has also added a Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences (MSBS) degree program and a Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) to its Colorado location. The Montana campus is accredited by COCA and matriculates the first class of students in July 2023. Rocky Vista University provides quality healthcare education while inspiring students to serve with compassion, integrity and excellence. For more information, visit www.rvu.edu.