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Hand-in-Scan goes global

The National University Hospital in Singapore collaborates with a Hungarian spin-off to evaluate its hand hygiene practice

National University Hospital (NUH) teams up with a Hungarian startup—HandinScan Ltd.—to carry out their hand hygiene education and assessment exercise, organized in conjunction with WHO's World Hand Hygiene Day.

Hand hygiene in health care institutions has great importance, since 250,000 people die every year in the developed world due to infections acquired while being treated, and the statistics are similarly frightening for the rest of the world. One of the major sources of Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) is the improper hand disinfection of the medical staff. 5th May is the World Hand Hygiene Day, promoted by the World Health Organization (WHO) within the frames of the SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands program.

To fight HAI, NUH launched a targeted program in 2009, and since then, every biennially in May, the NUH staff goes through a hand hygiene assessment exercise. This year, on top of the information campaign, a digital-technology empowered device—called **Hand-in-Scan**—is also employed, supporting the objective, imaging-based evaluation of hand disinfection. Associate Professor Dale Fisher, Head of the Division of Infectious Diseases at NUH said *"We are constantly exploring ways to improve hand hygiene and one such avenue is by leveraging technology. This is why we are delighted to have the Hungarian innovation, which allows objective evaluation of hand hygiene, to support our program."*

The Hungarian team and its international partners develop, validate and commercialize a hand hygiene system for the direct and objective evaluation and control of hand washing. The original idea had been use a non-invasive UV-marked commercial alcoholic hand rub, leaving the medical hand washing workflow intact, and now, combined with digital imaging of the hands and image processing, **Hand-in-Scan** can objectively determine the effectiveness of one's hand washing technique. All users are identified individually by **Hand-in-Scan**, images are taken, and the prototype gives repeatable and immediate measurement of hand washing quality, based on the UV traces of the solution. The Budapest University of Technology and Economics' (BME) spin-off company, together with the Semmelweis University and the Austrian Center for Medical Innovation and Technology (ACMIT) have been working on the system for three years, with the financial support of DBH Investment. *"HandinScan Ltd. forged strategic alliance with NUH two years ago to provide effective support to their exceptional hand hygiene training programs. We are proud to have such valuable international partner."*—says adjunct professor Tamás Haidegger, founder of HandinScan Ltd.

The NUH Hand Hygiene education and assessment program will take place from 6–10. May, 2013 affecting about 6000 staff members of the hospital. Csaba Faragó, Hungarian Ambassador to Singapore also visited the site, and participated in the hand hygiene training.

More information: www.handinscan.com, www.nuhs.edu.sg, www.who.int/gpsc/5may

Contact: Tamás Haidegger, info@handinscan.com, +6584202540

HandInScan Ltd.
The visible improvement

Bartók Béla 57., Budapest, 1114, Hungary, EU

www.handinscan.com, info@handinscan.com

Image resources

Hand-in-Scan logo:



Hand-In-Scan can significantly improve hand hygiene education and reduce hospital-acquired infections, by providing objective feedback on the quality of hand rubbing:



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Csaba Faragó, Hungarian Ambassador to Singapore
using **Hand-in-Scan** for the first time:



Hungarian Hand-in-Scan team helps NUH staff to improve their hand hygiene—2013 World Hand Hygiene Day:

