

AnatomyAdvances 2026: Bridging Clinical and Surgical Anatomy for Medical Progress

Conference Proceedings

May 25, 2026 - United Kingdom

Revolutionizing Medical Education: Pilot Study Highlights the Transformative Power of Virtual Reality in The Teaching of Anatomy to Medical Students

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Abstract

The way we teach and learn anatomy is evolving, and Virtual Reality (VR) is at the forefront of this revolution. A recent study conducted by students at the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education/CUNY School of Medicine shed light on the remarkable impact of VR-based learning using Avatar Medical, comparing it to traditional anatomy education methods.

The study involved 94 pre-matriculation medical students, divided into two groups: one using traditional tools like cadaver dissection videos and anatomical models, and the exploring osteology and muscular attachments of the lower limb and pelvis through VR simulations. The goal? To assess not only knowledge retention but also student motivation and engagement. Surveys captured feedback across four key dimensions: attention, confidence, relevance, and satisfaction.

The findings were compelling. Students using Avatar Medical's VR technology reported significantly higher levels of engagement, motivation, and satisfaction. Across all four survey categories, the VR group outperformed, demonstrating the immersive power of this cutting-edge technology. While both groups achieved learning gains, the study revealed that VR provides a dynamic and interactive educational experience, making it a powerful complement to traditional methods. Notably, students with prior anatomy knowledge in the traditional group saw slightly higher score increases, underscoring VR's role as an enhancement rather than a replacement.

This study highlights the potential of VR to reshape medical education. By allowing students to visualize and interact with 3D anatomical structures in real time, solutions like Avatar Medical Academy are making learning more accessible, intuitive, and engaging. As medical institutions increasingly adopt innovative teaching methods, VR stands out as a game-changing technology, equipping the next generation of healthcare professionals with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed.