

# Information Society Technologies

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Directorate H - ICT For Citizens and Businesses

## Unit H1 - ICT for Health

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### News from the Projects

#### **DEVASPIM - The Devaspim portal will be invaluable to spine surgeons**

In recent years, research into the biomechanics of spine implants has helped to improve the prognosis for implant patients. Simulation models developed in the course of some of the research embody the know-how of European research centres with outstanding reputations. In principle, the models could serve orthopaedic surgeons and implant manufacturers, who gain from any improvement in their understanding of implant behaviour *in vivo*. A group of small- and medium-sized implant manufacturers, information technology companies and a technology transfer business have now developed an internet portal that turns the principle into practice.

#### **INFOBIOMED - 1st Training Challenge**

The First INFOBIOMED Training Challenge is now launched. This innovative training experience organized by INFOBIOMED will take place in Viladrau (Barcelona, Spain) from the 12th to the 16th of September 2005.

The First INFOBIOMED Training Challenge follows an innovative format that will gather 2 groups of 5 students with different backgrounds (bioinformatics, medical informatics, biology, medicine, chemistry, etc.) that will be working together in a case study that can benefit from an integrative approach. In doing so, the objective is to promote the exchange of views and the dialogue between disciplines, which is key for the future development of biomedical informatics, in the context of a specific research problem, to help focus the effort towards a tangible target. Pharmainformatics has been chosen as the broad theme of this first edition, and the students will be tutored by scientists involved in the related INFOBIOMED pilot. A different case study will be selected for each of the two groups. Students will be actually lodged in the same building where the meeting rooms are located, 80 km away from Barcelona, so that they can actually 'live' for a week on a research-driven environment and they can develop their interdisciplinary potential as much as possible.

The student expenses will be covered by the project and the application deadline is 30th of June 2005. More details can be found in the brochure on the INFOBIOMED webpage.

Students coming from European organisations are encouraged to apply. We will especially welcome applications from students not related to INFOBIOMED partners, to help the network extend beyond its partnership. The student group that presents at the end of the activity the best integrative approach of the two will benefit from a further one month stay in one of the INFOBIOMED partner sites, in the framework of our mobility programme.

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