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**Strategic Alliance Between The Michener Institute and Vertual Ltd.  
Brings Immersive Simulation in Radiation Therapy to North America**

TORONTO, July 9, 2009 – The Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences and Vertual Ltd. are proud to announce a strategic alliance that will bring immersive (or virtual reality) simulation-based education in radiation therapy for the very first time to Canada and North America.

“This is a proud moment for Michener as we introduce new state-of-the art technology to support student learning within our innovative interprofessional and simulation-based curriculum,” said Dr. Karim Bandali, Associate Vice-President, Business Development. The Michener Institute offers the largest Medical Radiation Sciences program in Canada in conjunction with The University of Toronto to over 375 students, 162 of which are currently enrolled in Radiation Therapy.

The Virtual Environment Radiotherapy Training System, or VERT, simulates the virtual reality of a radiation therapy treatment room. Through captivating 3D views and life size visualizations, VERT offers an immersive simulation-based education model to train radiation therapists and interprofessional teams. VERT can be used to illustrate how theoretical concepts translate into clinical practice and the acquisition of clinical skills in a safe, risk free environment.

“Immense joy comes from developing innovative solutions that tackle real problems in health care, which then go on to bring benefits to patients and medical staff,” explains Professor Roger Phillips, Co-founder and Managing Director, Vertual Ltd. “Effective collaborations are always a vital ingredient in producing such innovative solutions and to introducing them commercially. The Michener Institute has grasped the challenge of being simulation centric, and I am sure that our strategic alliance will allow us both to reap the dividends of this exciting collaboration for training and education in radiation therapy.” Professor Phillips is also a Research Professor in Computer Science at the University of Hull, England.

VERT’s three-dimension virtual simulation capability will become an important tool in enhancing the preparation of Michener students for the clinical setting as Michener integrates a new level of simulation-based education into their Radiation Therapy program. VERT will be used to compliment and reinforce their existing curriculum focused on patient treatment planning and the administration of radiation for therapeutic purposes.

“For Vertual’s first venture into the North American market, we are fortunate to partner with such an innovative and forward thinking educational institution,” reflects Professor Andy Beavis, Co-founder and CSO, Vertual Ltd., and Head of Radiation Physics at the Queen’s Centre for Oncology and Haematology in Hull, England. “Vertual’s goal is to make innovative changes to the way oncology professionals are trained. To date, we have had great success in England, and believe that The Michener Institute will play a strong role in achieving this goal in Canada.”

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### About The Michener Institute

The Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences is Canada's only post-secondary institution devoted exclusively to applied health science education. Since 1958, Michener has educated applied health professionals who serve a vital role in the country's health care sector in such fields as medical laboratory science, medical radiation sciences, respiratory therapy, chiroprody, diagnostic cytology, genetics technology, ultrasound and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Interprofessionalism, patient-centred learning and simulation-enhanced education are essentials of the Michener academic experience for over 5,000 full-time, part-time and continuing education students. The Michener Institute is publicly funded by the Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and further enriched through partnerships with universities, private sector companies and leading health care organizations. For more information, visit [www.michener.ca](http://www.michener.ca).

### About Vertual Ltd.

Vertual is an award-winning high technology company providing state-of-the-art training and education systems for radiation therapy professionals.

The VERT product provides life size simulations of a radiotherapy treatment room in a virtual environment using true 3D projection. VERT has been adopted throughout England following recommendations from England's National Radiotherapy Advisory Group and recommendations in the UK's Department of Health's Cancer Reform Strategy (December 2007). There are currently VERT systems at 12 Universities and over 35 radiotherapy teaching hospitals in the UK as well as 3 VERT systems at University Hospitals internationally. For more information visit [www.vertual.co.uk](http://www.vertual.co.uk)