

H4D, the University of Angers and the Angers University Hospital revolutionises telemedicine and invents "telesemiology"

A three-way partnership that launches a whole new field of expertise and study of semiology adapted to remote clinical practice.

PARIS - February 3, 2021 - A pioneer of clinical telemedicine, H4D announces a partnership with the University of Angers and the Angers University Hospital to train future doctors in telemedicine and validate telesemiology procedures with scientific studies, a first in France and Europe.

A necessary democratisation of telemedicine

In 2020, the number of virtual medical consultations tripled¹, so the conclusion is obvious: the pandemic has played a major part in the acceptance of teleconsultations, both from a doctors' and patients' perspective. The first wave had already seen a **boom in the number of teleconsultations and the second confinement has further reinforced its value**. However, both patients and doctors are beginning to express reluctance in terms of its use: almost a quarter (24%) of doctors say they are dissatisfied with their teleconsultation experience, 40% of doctors have never provided teleconsultations because they do not have the necessary tools and 73% of French people think that telemedicine creates a greater risk of medical errors.²

For H4D, a pioneer in the field of telemedicine for more than 10 years, it became a priority to establish a framework for this new medical practice by adapting semiology to remote healthcare, through the validation of medical protocols.

A brand-new field of expertise and study for the adaptation of new telemedicine practices: telesemiology

Telemedicine semiology or telesemiology is the adaptation of traditional semiology to remote video consultations, which can be aided by integrated measurement or examination devices. The telesemiology methods developed by H4D in recent years now help clinicians carry out remote clinical examinations of patients. This self-examination of the patient, guided by the doctor, allows the latter to share some of their medical expertise and make the patient more involved in their healthcare.

"After several years of teleconsultation activity with our connected medical pod, H4D doctors have gradually adapted their clinical practice. With our experience, we have learned to transfer some of our medical expertise to the patient to carry out the clinical examination for us. We

¹ Source: [Investigation Odoxa - The Telemedicine Barometer of the Digital Health Agency](#) (YEARS) - October 2020

² Source: [Investigation Odoxa - The Telemedicine Barometer of the Digital Health Agency](#) (YEARS) - October 2020

have thus defined the concept of telesemiology and developed, among peers, a novel handbook incorporating self-examination protocols. This expertise is made available to medical researchers and doctors in training as part of this partnership," says Dr. Arnaud Wilmet, Medical Director at H4D.

A three-way partnership to establish a framework for telemedicine practice

It is therefore logical that H4D has approached the University of Angers and the Angers University Hospital and their pioneering simulation centre ALL'SIMS, based on "modern" healthcare simulation, with a shared ambition to develop telemedicine.

*"For the last 5 years, The University of Angers and the Angers University Hospital have made the choice to jointly develop a health simulation centre. **It is an important location for networking and exchanging of skills in both training and research.** All'sims enables new forms of learning to be explored, research to be developed and professionals to acquire new skills. This centre brings together a wide range of equipment for digital simulation, virtual reality or augmented reality that provides a true immersive experience. With the arrival of the H4D telemedicine pod, we are entering a new field of medical practice able to meet the challenges of the future. The University of Angers and its Faculty of Health will be able to take advantage of it, particularly the students who are the healthcare professionals of tomorrow,"* said Christian Roblédo, President of the University of Angers.

*"The All'Sims Simulation Centre was the ideal place to develop telesemiology. This innovation is part of AUH's three core missions: teaching, in close collaboration with the UA, in order to train interns and doctors in this innovative new consultation practice; research, as telesemiology opens up a new field of study. In addition, **H4D's pod will enable research methods to be carried out on-site that few others are able to replicate.** Finally, care: with trained teams and informed patients, telemedicine will eventually be a new treatment in the patient's journey at the AUH",* says Cécile Jaglin-Grimonprez, Executive, Director of the Angers University Hospital.

Formalise telemedicine with specialised and coordinated training

This partnership aims to develop telemedicine practice to ensure optimal remote patient care, formalise **telemedicine by creating specialised and coordinated training** and, finally, academically validate the teleseminology methods developed by H4D through scientific studies.

Several areas of protocol validation have been implemented: urology, cardiology, dermatology, geriatrics, digestive surgery or pre-anaesthesia.

Training for trainee doctors is planned with H4D's Consult Station®, located within the ALL'SIMS simulation centre.

An innovative telemedicine pod manufactured in Maine-et-Loire

"The whole challenge of telemedicine today and tomorrow will be to define what is and what is not feasible in telemedicine practice. Within a few years, we will be able to evaluate and demonstrate that a significant proportion of medical practices are possible in telemedicine. It is an original and promising field of research that brings together territorial expertise in

Angevine with H4D's telemedicine pod, which is manufactured by Eolane in Combrée, Maine-et-Loire," says Prof. Ludovic Martin, University Professor, Hospital practitioner, and Director of the ALL'SIMS Center.

The goal of this partnership is *ultimately* to make telemedicine even more accessible to all, to develop and formalise this new practice to offer an optimal teleconsultation experience for patients and doctors.

Reminder of how the Consult Station® works



The Consult Station® allows you to carry out teleconsultations with a clinician via video technology. Thanks to a range of measuring devices present in the cabin, the clinician can perform a clinical examination, perform a diagnosis remotely and, if necessary, issue a prescription.

The solution also allows the patient to take measurements independently (weight, height, BMI, temperature, O2 saturation, heart rate, blood pressure...), guided by a video tutorial. At the end of the session, the patient receives a printed report of their vital signs.

About H4D Care Access Services

A pioneer in the field of clinical telemedicine for more than 10 years, H4D has developed a unique, professional solution around the Consult Station®, the first connected medical practice. This system brings together measuring and diagnostic devices necessary for patient care, all via video technology. Drawing on this proprietary and certified technology, its expertise in care provision, training and medical coordination, and on a team of professionals specifically trained in tele-medical practice, H4D offers a complete service for accessing healthcare and prevention. H4D has carried out several thousand teleconsultations and independent assessments in corporations, local authorities and healthcare institutions in France and internationally. Thanks to the capabilities offered by new technology developed by H4D, access to healthcare is becoming a reality for all.

H4D has participated in the national effort during this unprecedented epidemic, deploying its pods throughout France; in town halls, in The Red Cross health centres, and in hospitals to maintain access to healthcare for all. The number of facilities and uses in local communities has more than doubled since March 2020, enabling quality and qualified healthcare.

For more information, visit www.h4d.com and find us on [Linkedin](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

About the University of Angers

At the heart of a region known for its high quality of life, the University of Angers, the 3rd largest employer in the region, offers an environment conducive to the development of its staff and students. The UA is a multidisciplinary university with a health department, welcoming 25,000 students spread over 3 campuses in Angers (Belle-Beille, Saint-Serge and Santé) and 2 remote campuses (in Cholet and Saumur). It is comprised of 8 departments (5 Faculties, 1 IUT, 1 IAE and 1 internal engineering school) and 26 research units. Enabling graduates to flourish and find employment at the end of their studies is a priority. The UA aims to offer everyone personalized support and can boast the best success rate in France for bachelor's degrees and an employment rate of around 90%.

Thanks to its many innovative projects and its international outlook, the UA enables everyone to evolve in a stimulating environment.

The AU has 2,000 administrative, technical, research and teaching staff and about the same number of external stakeholders. It develops values of innovation, community, sharing and support.

About the Angers University Hospital

The Angers University Hospital, a centre of reference and expertise for health, has a threefold mission: healthcare, teaching and research. It is both a local healthcare facility and a centre of excellence and expertise, it balances innovation and community on a daily basis. With 8 departments and 60 clinical and biological services, the hospital's healthcare offer covers all medical, surgical and biological specialties, including oncology. The most complex or rare specialties are supported by 51 centres of reference, resources and skills. Its patients are cared for by university hospital teams whose work is supported by a state-of-the-art technical facility. As part of a strong dynamic, the Angers University Hospital places the study of patient service at the very forefront; a commitment to quality that it must maintain because it is one of the leading health operators in the region with more than 180,000 patients per year and 1,565 beds and 176 spaces for patients. A member of HUGO (GSC Hôpitaux Universitaires du Grand Ouest), the Angers University Hospital is a centre for research and higher education. The largest employer in Maine-et-Loire, and one of the largest in the Loire region with more than 6,800 employees, it also participates in the development of trainee health professionals through the training of doctors and nurses. This position makes the AUH a player of social and community cohesion and one of the leading partners of other regional public and private health institutions.

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