

MEYER-HENTSCHEL INSTITUTE SAARBRUCKEN/ ZURICH

Meyer-Hentschel Institute is a leading company in developing simulation tools for self-experiencing various medical states of the human body. Inspired by simulation in aviation training, medical simulation has grown in popularity in the last years – from patients played by actors, to computerized mannequins that perform dozens of human functions. Meyer-Hentschel Institute added a new facet to the simulation game. They started developing simulation tools, that let you “walk in another’s shoes”.

In the early nineties, they developed an age suit with the objective of better understanding the growing numbers of old patients. In 1994, Meyer-Hentschel Institute presented a first prototype which went viral. It is worldwide acknowledged to be the first suit that let probands experience deficiencies and limitations of old age, e.g. hearing loss, age related farsightedness, loss of strength, reduced sensitivity of fingers and loss of dexterity and even the restricted movement of joints. Today Meyer-Hentschel Institute is a renowned think tank for medical simulation and sought after developer of behavioral founded medical simulation tools.



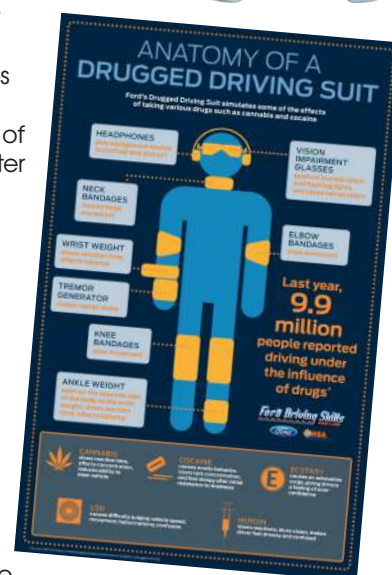
Over the years Meyer-Hentschel Institute refined the age simulation experience and introduced two brands: AgeExplorer® and AgeMan®. The brand AgeExplorer® focuses on industry offering a premium immersive experience of being old. The brand AgeMan® is widely used in the health care sector and offers a broad range of simulation tools for normal aging and age related diseases. Among the simulated diagnoses are diseases of the eye, frailty, shortness of breath, stroke, tremor, tinnitus, heart failure, sarkopenia, kyphosis, arthrosis. The simulation tools are mainly used in training empathy of doctors and nurses towards older patients but also by architects when planning clinics and elder care facilities.



Age suit AgeMan®. A visor restricts the field of vision, two optical foils reduce visual acuity and change colour perception. A two-piece suit, containing weights on arms and legs, gives the wearer an impression of the diminishing strength in old age. Gloves simulate decreasing flexion of the hand and fingers (palmar flexion) as well as decreasing dexterity and sensitivity of the fingers.



The AgeExplorer suit is being used by industrial companies in the developing process and testing of products which better serve the needs of elderly customers. Core branches are household appliances and the automotive industry. Recently, one of Meyer-Hentschel Institute’s clients, Ford Motor Company, came up with the idea of expanding the simulation game into the field of drivers training. They shifted the focus of feeling like another person, to feeling oneself in a state of being drunk, intoxicated or sleep deprived. Thus Meyer-Hentschel Institute developed a series of simulation suits which are being used worldwide within Ford’s Driving Skills for Life initiative: making driving more safe for young drivers.



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