NTU’s medical school unveils simulation technology training

SINGAPORE: For the first time in Singapore, junior college and polytechnic students will get to experience what goes on behind the closed doors of an operating theatre.

Nanyang Technological University has unveiled its simulation technology training for Singapore’s newest medical school, and some 600 pre-university students get to preview it on Saturday.

When the first batch of medical students start their course at the new NTU Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine next August, part of their training will involve using cutting-edge simulation technology.

Students will get to perform surgery on life-like prosthetics of human organs, complete with simulated bleeding.

Professor Roger Kneebone from Imperial College London said simulation surgery provides safety in an artificial environment.

“There’s an increasing amount of evidence that learning in a simulated environment transfers to learning in the operating theatre... so it cuts down the amount of time for training, it increases people’s accuracy and it makes them better at making decisions,” he said.

On Saturday, 600 junior college and polytechnic students will get to attend the simulated surgery preview.

Some have been chosen to assist in a mock abdomen surgery, where they will have to fix a patient’s intestinal blood.

Eighteen-year-old Temasek Junior College student, Zariel Sim said it’s an eye-opening experience.

“Compared to just reading a description in a textbook to doing it in real-life... even though it’s a simulation, I think you will gain a lot of experience.”

With simulation training as a cornerstone of its medical training, the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine hopes to cut down on the amount of lectures and seminars, to make way for more interactive and practical training.

- CNA/cc