

DENTAL FILL IN

One of the first sets of teeth that NAIT denturist students practise on may soon belong to Iron Mike.

Iron Mike is the nickname given to a metal mannequin head that denturist instructor Michael Weiss borrowed from the Dental Assisting program and converted into a teaching tool for his students. The metal skull has been fitted with a plastic set of upper and lower teeth – with some teeth missing, of course – so students can practise measuring and fitting their “patient” for a partial plate.

The simulator could be incorporated into the formal Denturist Technology curriculum by the fall of 2010. Instead of going from theory to practising on live patients, students will first practise on Iron Mike. NAIT’s 16 health sciences programs are working to integrate more simulation-based scenarios into the curriculum as a way to improve patient safety.

— Susan Ruttan

Ravneet Gill practises on Iron Mike, a mannequin head adapted for denturist students by instructor Michael Weiss (background).



An image of the brain as seen in the DiViewer, a tool that allows students to learn anatomy via magnetic resonance images.

A LOOK INSIDE THE HUMAN BODY

An online tool that allows Magnetic Resonance students to look at 3,500 images of the human body is branching out to new uses.

The DiViewer provides students with images showing slices of the human body, with each image labelled to identify parts of the anatomy. Developed by MRI program associate chair Craig Briggs and multimedia specialist Randy Troppmann, it has now been adapted for use by Medical Radiologic Technology students to view

CT scans. Briggs also plans to adapt the viewer for X-ray images.

A team from novaNAIT, the institute’s centre for applied research and technology transfer, is looking into the feasibility of marketing the DiViewer to other institutes.

As a web application, the viewer is ideal for the MRI program, which draws distance students from as far away as England. It is also used for testing: students scroll through the images and identify parts of the anatomy, then file their answers electronically.

— S.R.

