ABSTRACT

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Ultrasonography (US) belongs to the most promising live examination modalities, due to its comparably low costs, patient friendliness, and high speed of acquisition. Unfortunately, the interpretation of US images is challenging and the navigation by the examiner is not fully straightforward. The IllustraSound project originated in 2009, when visualization researchers at UiB’s Department of Informatics, together with national as well as international partners and supported by MedViz, teamed up to improve medical communication based on US images by means of advanced visualization technology.

Several important results were achieved, and the project was awarded with the prestigious Dirk Bartz prize for Visual Computing in Medicine by the European Association for Computer Graphics (Eurographics) in 2013. Building on these successes, the grand vision of IllustraSound can be sketched as the hypothetical “IllustraSound Tricorder”, an advanced tool that provides anatomical and physiological information in real-time, amounting to a comprehensive next-stage diagnostic tool, and bringing high-quality modern health care closer to the patient. In this talk, I will give a short overview of the major challenges in working towards this goal and provide an outline of current activities in the project.

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