

IRCAD Africa, a leading global training and research institute in minimally invasive surgery, is set to launch its Center of Excellence tomorrow. This groundbreaking initiative aims to catalyze surgical innovation, promote skills development, and improve patient outcomes across Sub-Saharan Africa.

The IRCAD Africa Center of Excellence, hosted in Rwanda is an innovative addition to the country's ambition to create a health/ medical city that represents a major milestone in the region's healthcare landscape.

The center is built to serve as a world-class facility for training and research, fostering collaboration, and knowledge exchange among surgeons, physicians, and healthcare professionals from across Africa and beyond.

The establishment of IRCAD Africa is the result of a strategic partnership between the Government of Rwanda and IRCAD France, a visionary institution renowned for its expertise in laparoscopic surgery.

The partnership combines global surgical excellence with local knowledge and expertise with the intention to help create a sustainable and impactful center in Sub-Saharan Africa.



The Government of Rwanda invested in construction of the center in Masaka.

For the first 5 years of the partnership, the Government of Rwanda and IRCAD France committed to fund the center's operations and running costs. The memorandum of understanding between the two parties spells out a separate 50-50 percentage cost sharing investment.

Rwanda was chosen as the home of IRCAD Africa offering a propitious environment. The country's commitment to invest in health was a key factor.

The country has already invested in advancing invasive therapies with a couple of hospitals already practicing the surgery procedures through diverse programs, preparing the ground for the establishment of IRCAD Africa.

Rwanda's geographic location in the heart of Africa also makes it accessible for the sub-Saharan population.

The Center of Excellence will provide state-of-the-art training opportunities tapping into over 800 experts from other IRCAD centers, creating an enabling environment for surgeons to learn and practice advanced techniques, particularly in minimally invasive procedures.

These techniques offer numerous benefits to patients, including shorter hospital stays, reduced pain, and faster recovery times. By equipping surgeons with these skills, IRCAD Africa aims to improve surgical outcomes and elevate the overall quality of healthcare in the region.

The facility will also feature cutting-edge simulation technology, including virtual reality and augmented reality platforms, allowing surgeons to practice and refine their skills in a safe and controlled environment. Additionally, the center houses a fully equipped operating wet lab, complete with advanced surgical equipment, enabling hands-on training in real surgical scenarios.

The launch of IRCAD Africa's Center of Excellence represents a turning point in surgical education and practice in Rwanda and sub-Saharan Africa

By combining international expertise with local context, IRCAD Africa will empower Rwandan and African surgeons to deliver the highest quality care to their patients, enhancing the region's surgical ecosystem, and fostering innovation for the benefit of all Africans.

To facilitate continuous learning and knowledge exchange, the IRCAD Africa Center of Excellence earlier this week launched its first surgery course at Masaka attracting more than 60 participants and surgeons from over 20 countries, bringing together top surgical experts, thought leaders, and innovators from around the world.

The courses feature interactive workshops, live surgeries, and scientific sessions, creating a platform for sharing best practices, discussing novel techniques, and advancing surgical research.

The launch of the IRCAD Africa Center of Excellence aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on ensuring healthy lives and promoting wellbeing for all at all ages. By strengthening surgical capacity and fostering innovation, IRCAD Africa seeks to contribute to the improvement of healthcare outcomes and access across Sub-Saharan Africa.

The launch of the Center of Excellence marks a pivotal moment in the region's healthcare landscape. The state-of-the-art facility will drive surgical innovation in the country and empower healthcare professionals, and ultimately improve patient care and outcomes in the region. IRCAD Africa invites surgeons, medical professionals, and stakeholders from across the globe to join hands in this transformative journey toward a healthier Africa.

Despite its French origins, IRCAD Africa is being established as a pan-African brand leveraging on the same two orientations as other IRCAD centers including:

1. Conducting research directed toward the latest technology in minimally invasive surgery which allows the surgeries to be less aggressive with the patients and allow a speedy recovery for the patient.
2. Conducting education and training, tapping into a global network of 800 experts from around the world who teach at all the IRCAD centers. The IRCAD centers have since become a world leader in promoting and teaching invasive surgery by keeping its focus on developing less invasive surgical techniques through research led by a Research and Development (R&D) team in close collaboration with IRCAD surgeons.