WISER has record increases in usage in 2016

The numbers are in, and WISER had a record year in 2016! Across all of our utilization metrics, WISER had increases in every category. Notably we have 15,229 educational encounters, our most ever, and an increase of over 13% versus the previous year. Also with double digit increases to the prior year, our room usage swelled to 16,258 room hours, an increase of 13.1%. Participant encounter hours topped out at just under 60,000, which is nearly double to what we had when we moved into McKee Place space 10 years ago. For the first time, we have over 400 instructors that have taught in over 1,700 classes in the past year. Additionally, 4,344 individuals participated in classes at WISER, again, a new record, and well over twice the number of students we had 10 years ago. All in all, 2016 was tremendous increase in the activities at WISER, and we look forward to an even busier 2017!

Dr. Paul Phrampus is Inducted into the Society for Simulation in Healthcare SSH Academy

Dr. Phrampus was recently inducted as an inaugural Fellow into the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH) Academy. The Society for Simulation in Healthcare Board of Directors announced the first group of Fellows in January 2017 at the International Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare (IMSH) in Orlando, FL.

Review of the candidates was a very considered and deliberate process. Application reviewers sought evidence of sustained contribution and impact to the field of healthcare simulation and to the Society, and a commitment to support the mission and vision of the Academy.

According to the SSH “These individuals were selected based on their outstanding contributions to the development of SSH and to the field of healthcare simulation......the Fellows will initiate important work to keep our field moving forward”

Dr. Phrampus has been the Director of WISER for over ten years. He has also served as the Past President of the SSH. For the past 20 years, Dr. Phrampus has contributed extensively to the field of healthcare simulation through clinical instruction, authorship, professorship, mentorship and the development of faculty and simulation centers both nationally and internationally. According to Dr. Phrampus “The Fellow Academy of the SSH is an important step forward to provide guidance, aspiration, and mentorship to the next generation of simulation leaders. I am honored to be selected to join this esteemed group.”

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Phrampus on his accomplishment!
Quick Tips:

Document Your Course Setup
For each new class created in your center, meet with the course director and review equipment needs. Once the course needs have been finalized, create an equipment list and set up the rooms. Review this set up with the course director and then take a photo of it once everything is finalized. This will be referenced each time a class is run for this course. By doing this, you are standardizing the course and making set-up easier on your center staff.

Patient Safety Initiatives
WISER is proud to collaborate with subject matter experts to provide the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Health system with high-quality, effective patient safety-focused educational programming across a multitude of topics and learners.

Our patient safety programming initiatives can be categorized as: 1) Systems Evaluation, 2) Team Training and Communication, 3) Patient Care, 4) Airway Management, 5) System Competency, 6) Ultrasound, and 7) Residency Training.

1. Systems Evaluation Initiatives WISER calls upon its expertise in healthcare education, simulation, assessment and project management to provide the UPMC Health system with several well-integrated programs that are designed to address the identification of latent threats and provide training in various areas of crisis response.

2. Team Training and Communication Initiatives A vital need of the system is the development of communication and team training programming. In today’s multi-disciplinary healthcare environment, even the best trained clinician is only as good as their communication and teamwork skills. WISER has worked with a multi-disciplinary group of subject matter experts to develop high quality communication and team training educational programs for both residents and practicing clinicians. A combination of well-designed curriculum, assessment tools and facilitation provide the basis for our team training and communication initiatives.

3. Patient Care Initiatives There are many patient care skills that require training beyond the traditional apprenticeship model due to their quantifiable impact on patient safety outcomes. Some of these skills, if performed improperly, may have adverse effects on patient outcomes. While other skills are so rare and critical that clinicians do not have sufficient opportunities to practice and maintain their competency. To address these needs, WISER provides expertly designed curriculum focusing on various skills such as central venous cannulation training, urinary catheter placement, feeding tube insertion, and pediatric procedural sedation.

4. Airway Management Initiatives Proper airway management is essential for the care of patients. The presentation of patients with a difficult airway may not be a common event, but its proper management becomes a life-saving procedure. Healthcare providers need to practice the recognition, clinical decision making, treatment and the use of required airway devices when managing such patients. The WISER Difficult Airway Management series reaches hospitalists, anesthesiologists, emergency physicians, nurse anesthetists, critical care medicine fellows, emergency medicine residents, and anesthesia residents.

5. System Competency Initiatives At the UPMC system wide level, WISER programming (continued on next page)
Clinical Response Team (CRT) Training

WISER has been actively developing and supporting a variety of educational programs focusing on Clinical Response Team (CRT) Training for response to highly communicable diseases. From the initial onboarding of the CRT, to skills training, competency assessments and maintenance of knowledge, WISER has been collaborating with Emergency Preparedness to provide high quality training and assessment of the team. Due to our integral role, WISER helped to coordinate and participate in a PA Department of Health (DOH) evaluation exercise as part of the process to become an Ebola Assessment/Treatment Facility for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. As a result of over 100 people working together, UPMC has been officially approved and is now recognized as an Ebola Receiving Facility, http://insideupmc.upmc.com/ebola-treatment-facility-designation/. UPMC has the privilege of being part of the Ebola treatment network which includes both Front Line Facilities and seven Regional Treatment. WISER is proud to be part of such an amazing team!

Quick Tips:

Continuous Pulses

The pulses on the SimMan can be made to continuously pulsate. This may come in handy for scenarios that require constant pulse check. The participant would no longer need to push the pulse point in first to activate it. Instead it can be felt with a light touch at any time. To do this remove the clear rubber around the pulse, remove the spring that is around the middle post. Replace the top (be sure that the padding is still there, if it is not put a small layer of foam to stop the pulse from making a clicking noise). Wrap the clear plastic back onto the pulse and connect to the SimMan. This can be done to any pulse except the carotid and pedal pulses.
Pre-Medical Organization of Minority Students Attend First Class at WISER

WISER was pleased to support the first ever Pre-Medical Organization of Minority Students: Physiology (POMS PHYS) course for the University of Pittsburgh! On Friday April 14th, 28 University of Pittsburgh Undergraduate students that are members of the Pre-Medical Organization of Minority Students (POMS) participated in a course designed by their current President Analise Rode. Under the guidance of an Emergency Medicine Resident, students learned the basics of phlebotomy while practicing on partial task trainer arms. POMS students were also given the opportunity to interact with a manikin to work through a variety of case based scenarios. WISER looks forward to integrating this program into an annual offering of the POMS organization.

WISER on the Road - PANA Workshops

WISER was on the road again! WISER was excited to be working with the Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists (PANA). Contracted to provide workshops, WISER was proud to provide PANA participants a hands on learning experience using simulation. The workshop was held May 4-7, 2017 at The Hotel Hershey for the 2017 Spring Symposium for PANA. WISER provided two workshops (Difficult Airway and Fiberoptic Bronchoscopy) at the symposium.

WISER enhances the learner’s experience through its workshops by providing several subject matter experts that assures content quality and an ideal faculty to student ratio. WISER also provides a Certified Healthcare Simulation Operations Specialist (CHSOS) at each workshop. The CHSOS is skilled in preparing the simulation environment as well as managing the simulators, task trainers, and Audio/Visual solutions (equipment and programs). WISER facilitates in providing the credits for each of the workshops though the American Association of Nurse Anesthetist (AANA).

Come visit WISER on the road and see our workshops in action! WISER’s vast experience in providing workshops, positions itself to define a standard of excellence through its demonstrations. If you are interested in WISER facilitating workshop, email us at wiserhelp@upmc.edu.

Quick Tips:

VLC
VLC is a powerful, free, cross platform, video player and recording software. It plays nearly all video formats. It can connect to capture devices, such as USB cameras as well as networked video streams. It can convert any video it can read into a more universal format. It is not the most intuitive software available, but the powerful capabilities it has make it something that should be in your technical toolkit.

(http://www.videolan.org/vlc/)
Assessments Via Simulator Software

Utilizing programmed simulator software allows WISER and course directors to reduce training time of new instructors and helps standardize scenarios. By utilizing the features of WISER's new simulator software, WISER staff can work with course directors to take new or existing assessments and program them into the simulator software and thereby eliminating the need for assessments on paper. In addition, the events being assessed can be time stamped and linked to video from the session. The software offers features that can control the simulator physiology and facilitate assessments. By utilizing this software, WISER has seen a reduction in time to train new instructors on the operations of the simulator and utilization of assessments related to the scenario.

The diagram below notes the instructor view of the software and the embedded assessment checklist. The critical events are color coded.

Congratulations Jon Mazur!

WISER is proud to announce that Sr. Simulation Specialist Jon Mazur has successfully completed the Certified Healthcare Simulation Operations Specialist (CHSOS) certification administered through the Society for Simulation in Healthcare. Jon has been a valued member of the WISER team for over 14 years and continues to use his skills and knowledge daily to support simulation programs here at WISER's main location, as well as all the satellite centers, and UPMC Health Systems locations. Please join us in congratulating Jon on his accomplishment!
WISER Welcomes Dr. Yanling Zhang and Dr. Jen-Chieh (Lendis) Wu!

WISER welcomed fellow Yanling Zhang, from The Second Xiangya Hospital, Central South University, Hunan, China, who specializes in anesthesia in August 2016. Dr. Zhang will be with WISER until August 2017.

Dr. Zhang received her degree from Central South University. Currently she is the Associate Chief Physician in the Department of Anesthesiology at the Second Xiangya Hospital, Central South University where she works clinically and is involved in simulation education.

WISER's world-class education offerings is what drew Dr. Zhang to study at WISER. Currently Dr. Zhang has participated in several WISER courses such as the iSIM course and How to Run a Successful Simulation Center. She has also participated in course observations and in the International Journal Club. Dr. Zhang has been working with a mentor on several projects. She hopes to bring home teaching techniques and practices that will improve patient safety.

Dr. Jen-Chieh (Lenis) Wu started his six month fellowship at WISER at the end of November. Dr. Wu is an Emergency physician and faculty of Simulation Center of Taipei Medical University. Dr. Wu received his graduate degree from Chung Shan Medical University Medical School.

While at WISER Dr. Wu has gained the knowledge and insight into what it takes to be center director. He has also learned about curriculum development, course design and assessment. Under the supervision of WISER Associate Director Dr. John O’Donnell, Dr. Wu has been working on a debriefing project.
Fifteenth Annual Safar Symposium

WISER is pleased to participate in the 15th Annual Safar Symposium on May 23rd, 2017. The Safar Symposium is a two day multi department research conference held jointly by the Safar Center for Resuscitation Research and the Peter M. Winter Institute for Simulation Education and Research (WISER). WISER will be hosting the morning session of the symposium on May 23rd. The Safar Center recently relocated to the Rangos Research Center in the Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC. Due to this move, this year’s program is pediatric focus.

The theme for the WISER portion of the Safar Symposium is “Improving Pediatric Patient Safety Through Simulation.” The keynote speaker for the WISER session will be Marc Auerbach, MD, FAAAP, Msc. Dr. Auerbach is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics (Emergency Medicine) and of Emergency Medicine; Co-chair INSPIRE (International Network for Simulation Based Pediatric Innovation Research and Education) and Director, Pediatric Simulation, Yale Center for Medical Simulation. Dr. Auerbach will be presenting Improving Pediatric Patient Safety Through Simulation. Other speakers for the morning session are:

- **Melinda Fiedor Hamilton, MD, MSc**: Identifying the Importance of Communication Through Simulation Based Training
- **Ashley Keilman, MD**: Pediatric Sepsis Shock Simulation Training and Research
- **Candace Hippel, CNRA, MSN and Aleena Rorapaugh, SRNA, BSN**: Just in Time Pediatric Simulation: A View from Both Sides, Students and Clinical Preceptors
- **Tyler Hutchison Harris, MD (tentative)**: Effectiveness of Simulation Based Training for the Management of Acute Congenital Heart Disease

Anyone in the Oakland or Lawrenceville area that would like to attend the symposium, please register at the following link: [http://www.safar.pitt.edu/content/registration](http://www.safar.pitt.edu/content/registration). We look forward to seeing you at this informative and captivating event!
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Director’s Corner

Wow – An Incredible Last Two Weeks!

In the last two weeks (April 17 – 30, 2017) WISER has supported an incredible amount of simulation based learning and assessment. We have supported 73 classes involving 781 participants and 54 different facilitators. We administered 377 quizzes and sent 472 emails to help remind participants and instructors of what they need to do!

Absolutely incredible! How does this happen? First and foremost, we have an amazing group of dedicated individuals on the WISER team that function as a cohesive team. They are goal oriented, create situational awareness for each other, communicate clearly and often, and look out for each other! They are some of the most passionate individuals I know involved in simulation and I am proud to have them as colleagues. Our eligible technicians are 100% Certified Simulation Healthcare Operations Specialists (CHSOS). They are able to perform admirably under any circumstance whether things are going smoothly or they are amidst opportunities for creating solutions on the fly.

Secondly, our information management system is second to none. The Simulation Information Management System (SIMS) system was built from the ground up over the last 20 years at WISER by our Director of IT, Mr. John Lutz and programmer Kim Mitchell. The system has the key features that not only support and facilitate busy operations such as described in the numbers above, but also provide an amazing amount of information, tools and technology to course directors and faculty members to provide exceptionally effective educational programs. The system also enables faculty to perform continuous quality improvement on their curricular designs and delivery! All of this from a web-based IT system. The database of the SIMS system also makes data easily available for quality improvement of the entire WISER program as well as exports for research purposes. SIMS powers WISER and 17 other centers around the world.

Lastly, our model of collaboration that focuses on combining personnel with simulation/education expertise with the subject matter expertise allows a large number of faculty to become exceptionally competent facilitators of simulation based education. This creates an exceptionally large pool of competent, faculty members who harbor subject matter expertise in the area they are teaching who are supported by those who specialize in the administration, information technology, curriculum development and operations of simulation. A match made in heaven!

Until next time,
Happy simulating!

Paul

WISER is affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh and the UPMC Health System