WISER and the Charles Gray Watson Surgical Education Center Collaborate to Bring Excellence in Education and Training to UPMC

WISER is pleased to announce its collaboration with the Charles Gray Watson Surgical Education Center at UPMC Presbyterian Hospital. Named after Dr. Watson, who was a former professor of surgery at the University of Pittsburgh, the Watson Surgical Education Center offers surgical residents and medical students a variety of sophisticated training tools and resources. The skills lab allows participants to use virtual reality simulators to practice basic and complex operating room tasks in a safe setting before utilizing them in the actual environment. WISER will be supporting existing surgical programs and are working with academic faculty, nursing and clinical educators from across the UPMC Presbyterian/Montefiore complex to create new educational programs to take place at the Watson center with a strong focus on patient safety. For more information, please contact WISER Help at wiserhelp@upmc.edu.
Quick Tip:
Since some courses only run once a year or infrequently, make an equipment list, set up the equipment and room and then take a photo of it. Then when the course runs, you have a photo and an equipment list as a reference.

DID YOU KNOW
that WISER started as a one room simulation center twenty-one years ago?

Dr. Peter M. Winter Passes Away at 81

With heavy hearts, WISER staff shares the news that our namesake, Dr. Peter M. Winter has passed away. Dr. Winter passed away on Saturday, May 14th, 2016 in Issaquah, Washington at the age of 81. Dr. Winter considered academic medicine as a “three-legged stool” that rests on patient care, teaching, and innovation. Dr. Winter chaired the School of Medicine Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine from 1979 to 1996.

Through his long and influential career, Dr. Winter excelled in each area with the exemplary performance that helped to make the University of Pittsburgh one of the nation’s top research institutions. It was through his leadership and foresight that the Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine first committed itself to invest in the innovative training method of human simulation.

During Dr. Winter’s chairmanship, anesthesia-related deaths decreased to almost zero. Many seriously ill patients who might previously have been lost or permanently crippled were revived through the use of pioneering life-support methods that he promoted. His program leadership played a crucial role in many of the University’s notable accomplishments.

Educational programs flourished during his tenure as chairman. In the mid-1990s, the Department acquired a full-sized computerized simulator and established a simulation center at Montefiore University Hospital. Through substantial financial contributions from both within and outside the Department, utilization of the center increased so rapidly that within a few years it had outgrown the space in Montefiore. In 2001 the Department, with the approval of the dean of the School of Medicine, chose to name the new facility The Peter M. Winter Institute for Simulation, Education, and Research or “WISER.” Today WISER has grown to a 16,000 sq. ft. training center with 8 satellite centers spread throughout the UPMC health system.

WISER Leadership, staff, instructors and directors send their deepest, heartfelt sympathy to Dr. Winter’s family and friends. His great legacy will continue to live on within the Peter M. Winter Institution for Simulation, Education, and Research (WISER).
14th Annual Safar Symposium

The Peter M. Winter Institute for Simulation, Education and Research (WISER) hosted day one of the 14th Annual Safar Symposium, titled “Patient Safety and Simulation”, on Monday, May 16th. This year’s presenters and topics included:

- **Andrew Musits, MD**
  Simulation and Medical Education Fellow
  Department of Emergency Medicine, University of Pittsburgh
  Topic: The Role of Simulation Based Procedural Skills Training in Patient Safety

- **Adam Z. Tobias, MD, MPH, FACEP**
  Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
  Topic: Is There a Doctor on Board? Turning Medical Students into First Responders with Simulation

- **Alisa Sumkin, DO, PGY-3**
  Diagnostic Radiology Resident, UPMC Medical Education
  University of Pittsburgh Radiology Resident
  Topic: Managing Contrast Reactions: Preparation Through Simulation

- **Jeffrey Alvarez, RN, MSN, NE-BC**
  Unit Director - 3E Stepdown, 3W ICU, Respiratory Therapy, Patient Transport, and Dialysis, UPMC East
  Topic: Utilizing In-situ Simulation to Improve Condition A Response

Day two of the 14th Annual Safar Symposium occured on Tuesday, May 17th at the University Club. This year’s subject was Biomarkers in Resuscitation, Neurocritical Care and Brain Injury. The Peter & Eva Safar lecturer for this year was J. Marc Simard, MD, PhD. His discussion focused on “The Sur1-Trmp4 Channel and Brain Edema”. Departmental trainees also had their abstract posters on display during the symposium.

“I made use of the opportunities that life offered to do some good.”

– Peter Safar
Quick Tip

By programming scenarios, you can save on instructor training time and reduce the amount of software an instructor needs to learn to run their own simulator.

DID YOU KNOW

that WISER’s original manikin cost $250,000 in 1994?

In-Patient Crisis Response System Evaluation (ICRSE)

Over the past two years WISER has developed a program to assess hospital responses to medical crisis. This program, called the In-Patient Crisis Response System Evaluation (ICRSE), is designed to assess the three layers of response to a medical crisis in a hospital. The first layer of response is from the local staff. A review is conducted on how initial providers respond to the crisis and utilize local technologies and procedures. The second level of assessment pertains to the hospital response. Does the system work? Latent threats pertaining to activation systems, code pager activations, elevator keys and other system resources are assessed. The third level of response pertains to the code team. Indicators like time to arrival, types of team members that arrive and any issues with systems or technology will be assessed.

Since its inception, WISER has expanded the program to include adult and pediatric responses in various hospitals. These programs are run on a monthly basis at various sites.

Dr. Xudong Chen Joins WISER as New Fellow

Design. Development. Assessment. These are just some of the areas of simulation that WISER’s new fellow Dr. Xudong Chen would like to explore during his one year fellowship at WISER. Dr. Chen joined WISER in November 2015 from the Mental Health Institute, The Second Xiangya Hospital of Central South University in Hunan, China.

Dr. Chen would like to gain an understating of the design of a simulation and how the infrastructure works at WISER. As the vice-director of a clinical skills training center, Dr. Chen would also like to learn faculty management. He would also like to learn more about the integration of simulation based instruction, assessment and feedback. During his fellowship Dr. Chen would also like to “Gain an understanding of design and conduct research programs utilizing simulation based education.” We welcome Dr. Chen not only to WISER but also to Pittsburgh.
WISER Introduces a New Course: Radiology Simulation (RAD SIM)

Radiology Simulation (Rad Sim) is one of WISER’s newest course offerings. The idea for the course began after one of the course directors was responding to a contrast reaction and realized that she was not as prepared as she could have been to manage the reaction. Out of that experience, two wonderful things happened, 1) the patient was unharmed and 2) a new course was born! As radiology residents, Drs. Alisa Sumkin and Michael Magnetta decided to turn a potentially bad situation into their quality improvement project. Under the guidance of their mentor, Dr. Phil Orons, and with the support of WISER’s course development process, Drs. Sumkin and Magnetta created an outstanding program that uses simulation to teach residents, attendings, nurses, technicians and any health care provider how to manage contrast reactions.

Using a blended learning model, participants engage with an online educational module and assessment prior to coming to our simulation center. Once in the center, the participants rotate through a series of contrast reaction scenarios and debriefings that focus on teaching the participants how to successfully manage a contrast reaction. The course has been extremely well-received and is now being offered on a regular basis. In addition, WISER had facilitated the offering of continuing education credits upon successful completion of the program. Drs. Sumkin and Magnetta have been able to see their hard work come to fruition after a past participant effectively managed a contrast reaction a few days after they took the course! From course inception to execution, WISER has been grateful to help these course directors deliver a program that has tangible patient safety outcomes.
Dr. Fang Fang Li and Dr. Xiaoyun Guo join WISER Fellowship Program

WISER is pleased to welcome two new fellows to the WISER family: Dr. Fang Fang Li from The Second Military Medical University (SMMU) in China and Dr. Xiaoyun Guo from the First Affiliated Hospital of Guangxi Medical University. Both Dr. Li and Dr. Guo will complete a one year fellowship at WISER.

Dr. Li is an associate professor at the School of Nursing at SMMU. She is also the head of the simulation center and is in charge of the correspondence education affairs for the School of Nursing. Dr. Li has her PhD in Nursing Education. While at WISER, Dr. Li hopes to achieve a cooperative relationship with WISER to help train teachers in simulation education. She also hopes to gain a better understanding of the Simulation operating mechanisms of WISER which includes scenario programming, simulation equipment education and room set-up. Dr. Li would like to learn the differences between the simulation centers in the United States and the center in China in order to find a way to improve the efficiency of the simulation center at her school. Lastly, Dr. Li would like to learn the standard way of creating curriculum for simulation and how to build and operate a simulation center.

Dr. Xiaoyun Guo is an associate professor in the Gastroenterology Department at First Affiliated Hospital of Guangxi Medical University for the past twelve years. Her research interest while at WISER includes integrating simulation and assessments as a tool for education, learn all areas of simulation and running a simulation center, understand the infrastructure of WISER and discover how WISER develops curricula for medical education in the simulation world.

WISER staff extends a warm welcome to Dr. Li and Dr. Guo! We look forward to working with you to achieve your goals!
Greetings,

Busy times here at WISER! In recent months we have opened yet another satellite center at the health system’s flagship hospital. In a partnership with the Watson Center for surgical education, WISER began to provide the capabilities to offer simulation-based curriculum and training facilities inside of UPMC Presbyterian. WISER is also working to help support and increase the capabilities of existing surgical training programs for medical students and residents.

We have significantly increased our In-patient Crisis Response Team Evaluation (ICRSE). The ICRSE program allows for in situ simulation events to occur to assess the overall capabilities, challenges and opportunities for UPMC hospitals inpatient crisis response teams. The program is improving patient safety and our ability to detect systems issues, latent threats and vulnerabilities in our response capabilities to patients who are in a deteriorating state.

We have worked in partnership with the Department of Radiology and launched a new patient safety program for the health system called Radiology Simulation or Rad Sim for short. This program teaches attending physicians, residents, nurses and technicians in radiology suites how to manage life-threatening emergency situations and other common urgent problems that occur in these locations. The program has been a huge success and represents another successful demonstration of collaboration between the WISER curriculum development pathway and a clinical department to serve a critical need of the health system.

We are exceptionally proud of several WISER “family” members. Kevin Miracle, MBA has completed his Post-Master’s Certificate in Simulation from Robert Morris University. Andy Musits, MD, who has been a WISER Education and Simulation Fellow for the past two years, has graduated with a Master’s degree in Medical Education from the University of Pittsburgh and completed the WISER fellowship. Dr. Musits will remain at WISER on a part-time basis running several important patient safety programs involving simulation.

We have finally finished our lobby renovations on both the third and fourth floor. Our staff worked tirelessly to modernize the gateways to WISER and have achieved a refreshed, professional, inviting look to welcome our thousands of faculty, students and visitors who pass through our Institute every year. Please stop by and take a look!

I hope that your summer is going well!

Until next time,

Happy simulating!

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING WISER, PLEASE CONTACT US:
phone: 412.648.6073
fax: 412.648.6190
email: wiserhelp@upmc.edu
website: www.wiser.pitt.edu

Visit us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/wisersimulation

Follow us on YouTube
http://www.youtube.com/user/wiseruser

Follow us on Twitter
https://twitter.com/WISERSIM