WISER has started a unique training course recently. Nationally known respiratory care expert Tom Roop, along with a team of local instructors, have started an interactive video class with physical therapists at ISMETT (Istituto Mediterraneo per i Trapianti e Terapie ad Alta Specializzazione), the UPMC managed transplant hospital at Palermo Sicily. There are no formal training opportunities in respiratory care in Italy at this time. This training is intended to help introduce physical therapists to this aspect of healthcare. These weekly sessions cover all aspects of respiratory therapy, from patient anatomy to ventilator management. Instructors use video and desktop presentations and interactive sessions via the Internet. On June 27, 2012, WISER incorporated a session utilizing remote controlled manikins for enhanced training. The RT instructors in Pittsburgh controlled the manikin while they observed the students practicing scenarios in Palermo using cameras connected to GoToMeeting software. The instructors manipulated the physiological parameters of the manikin in real time based upon the actions of the students. The students were then debriefed after the sessions by the remote instructors using the same cameras. These sessions will continue through October 2012.

WISER Introduces SimMan to UPMC East

On Friday June 1st 2012, staff from the Peter M. Winter Institute for Simulation Education and Research (WISER) introduced employees at UPMC East to the facility’s first ever patient, SimMan. On this day, multiple First Five Minutes sessions were held on various units to prepare staff for the treatment of patients that have had medical emergencies. Department Patients and additional First 5 Minute Sessions will continue prior to grand opening.

WISER is pleased to enhance and improve patient care at this facility and to all of the UPMC Health System. Sessions were facilitated by WISER’s Director of Operations, Tom Dongilli. All of this occurred while finishing touches were being performed on UPMC’s newest state of the art hospital, which includes a WISER Satellite Simulation Center. The center will allow for innovative, state of the art simulation-based education in patient safety and quality efforts. The hospital is currently scheduled for a grand opening in July. UPMC East will offer world-class cardiology, orthopedics, neurosurgery and emergency medical services.
WISeR Hosts 5th Annual Nursing Symposium

On Thursday May 24th and Friday May 25th, WISER hosted the 5th Annual Nursing Symposium at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott. Over the one and a half day event, there were over 200 participants, speakers, and vendors in attendance. In addition to the traditional lecture format, this year all participants attended four break-out sessions in a round-robin format.

The opening day presentations during the morning of day one were:

“Publish or Perish: Getting Your Simulation Results Published,” by Suzie Kardon-Edgren, PhD, RN from the Washington State University

“Inter-Professional Simulation: Why You Need It,” presented by Mary Beth Mancini, PhD, BSN, MSN with the College of Nursing at The University of Texas, Arlington

“The Role of Simulation in Bridging the Preparation to Practice Gap,” presented by Michelle Kelly, RN, ICC, BSc, MN with the University of Technology Sydney, Sydney, Australia

Afternoon breakout sessions of day one were:

“Debriefing: One Size Does Not Fit All,” joint presentation by Paul Phrampus, MD, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and Director of WISER, and John O’Donnell, DrPH, CRNA, MSN, with the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing

“Enhancing Your Simulation: Building Supplemental Course Material,” presented by Benjamin Berg, MD with the University of Hawaii, Valerie Howard, EdD, MSN, RN, Robert Morris University School of Nursing, Pittsburgh, PA and Michelle Kelly, RN, ICC, BSc, MN, with the University of Technology Sydney, Sydney, Australia

“Hospital based Simulation and Competency Assessment for the Professional Nurse: by Michelle Callihan, DNP, FNP-BC, BSN with Temple University Physicians, Philadelphia, PA, Debra Shane, RN, BNS, SANE-A with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, PA and Karen Stein, MSED, RN, CCRN with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Magee, Pittsburgh, PA

“Simulation in the Hospital Setting from CE’s to R3’s (Recruit, Retain and Risk Management)” presented by Jeffrey Groom, PhD, CRNA with Florida International University, Miami, FL, Mary Beth Mancini, PhD, BSN, MSN with the College of Nursing at The University of Texas, Arlington and Suzie Kardon-Edgren, PhD, RN from the Washington State University

At the conclusion of the presentation on day one, Laerdal Medical Corporation hosted a “Solutions Bar” for all participants.

The agenda for day two was highlighted by presentations from
WISeR Hosts 5th Annual Nursing Symposium (continued)

Jeffrey Groom on the “5th Annual Top 10 Review of Simulation Literature”. This was followed by Valerie Howard’s presentation on “INACSL Standards: What They Mean to You as a Simulation Educator”. Next, Pamela Jeffries, DNS, RN, ANEE, FAAN with the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD presented “Decreasing Clinical Time with Simulation: Fact or Fiction”. Wrapping up the Symposium was John O’Donnell and Pat Campbell, MSN, RN with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Passavant, Pittsburgh, PA conducting a joint presentation describing “Rapid Development of Hospital Based Sim Programs”.

WISeR would like to acknowledge the following vendors for their support and participation at this year’s Symposium:

Laerdal Medical - Gold Sponsor  iSys Global Solutions
Pocket Nurse  Simulaids/Worldpoint
UPMC Nursing Recruitment  B-Line Medical
Turning Technologies  CAE Healthcare
Silpada Designs Jewelry  WISER

RMU RISE Leadership in Simulation Certificate Program / RMU Nursing Programs

The Symposium was very well received by all participants, who also were eligible to receive a maximum of 10.5 contact hours of continuing nursing education through the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing, an accredited provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation.

Some of the comments received by WISeR on the course evaluations were:

Re: Suzi Kardong-Edgren’s presentation: “Her passion for writing can be felt. Well done.”

Re: Sandra Rader’s presentation: “By far the most applicable presentation in conference. Incredible delivery, unique and motivational content.”

Re: Dr. Paul Phrampus’ presentation: “Very informative and fun! Scenario was great!”

Re: Overall impression: “The most pertinent, highly developed, well-run, well supported conference I’ve ever been to.” and “Great conference! I will be back. It was so nice to hear the expertise! Thank you!”

Throughout the Nursing Symposium, WISeR hosted an “Ask the Specialist” display where participants were able to speak with the Simulation Specialists from WISeR to ask questions regarding simulators (which were on display) and processes WISeR utilizes during simulation classes at the Institute.

For more course offerings visit
www.wiser.pitt.edu
WISER was pleased to collaborate with the Safar Center for Resuscitation Research in co-hosting the 10th Annual Safar Symposium on Wednesday, June 27th and Thursday, June 28th. The Multi-Departmental Trainees’ Research Day (June 27th) took place at the University of Pittsburgh University Club.

The morning portion of the 10th Annual Safar Symposium on June 28th took place at the Starzl Biomedical Science Tower. This year’s topic was “Breakthroughs in Resuscitation - Pediatric Issues”. The 32nd Peter and Eva Safar Annual Lectureship in Medical Sciences and Humanities guest speaker for the morning was Gabriel G. Haddad, MD from the University of California, San Diego and Rady Children’s Hospital. Dr. Haddad’s topic of discussion was “Tolerance and Susceptibility to Hypoxia: New Lessons from Vertebrate and Invertebrate Model Systems”.

WISER hosted the afternoon topics of “Simulation: From Product Development to End Users - an Important Continuum”. Douglas Nelson, a graduate student researcher and teaching assistant at the University of Pittsburgh Simulation and Medical Technology R & D Center kicked off the afternoon session by discussing his research in enhancing simulator capabilities with sensors, autonomous responses and augmented reality.

Following Mr. Nelson’s presentation was Dr. J. Hurley Myers, an emeritus professor of physiology and internal medicine at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. Dr. Myers spoke to the attendees on “Improving Clinical Competence Using Patient Simulations”.

WISER’s own associate director, Dr. John O’Donnell, spoke on his involvement in simulation and the development of courses and placing them into action. His speech was titled “Development of a Fiberoptic Bronchoscopy Simulation Course: Mastery Learning in Action”.

Rounding out the afternoon session was a presentation from Captain Gene McDaniel, a Captain and Paramedic from the Phoenix Fire Department. Several audience members from local EMS and Fire Departments were in attendance to hear Captain McDaniel speak. Captain McDaniel spoke about “Simulation Training for Fire and EMS”. 
AAAGL Conference at WISER

WISER was pleased, for the second year in a row, to host the Innovations in Minimally Invasive Gynecological Surgery conference, which was sponsored by the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists (AAGL). Together, the staff at WISER and Dr. Ted Lee, Scientific Program Chair of the AAGL, organized this weekend course for gynecologists and gynecologic surgeons around the globe. Many commercial vendors in the surgical marketplace, including Olympus/Gyrus, Integra Life Science, Ethicon, CareFusion, Storz, Covidien, Cooper Surgical, Stryker, and Thermadex participated as well.

This was a two day course which provided gynecologists with a solid foundation of advanced minimally invasive pelvic surgical techniques based on sound, safe, and anatomical surgical principles. The attending gynecologists strived not only to refine their skills, but also to develop new skills during several presentations, didactic sessions, and hands-on instruction by expert minimally invasive gynecologic surgeons. The content of the course was especially applicable for gynecologic surgeons who want to develop the necessary skill sets for performing various types of laparoscopic hysterectomies.

During the two day course, there were several demonstrations by exhibitors who employ various cutting edge technologies in laparoscopic surgical equipment. The demonstrations also showed how the use of various energy sources can be applied in gynecologic surgery. Advanced educational techniques were also demonstrated. Some of the course material included practical applications of pelvic anatomy in devising surgical strategies and minimizing surgical complication, the surgical techniques and principles of laparoscopic total and supracervical hysterectomy, laparoscopic suturing, and instruction and performance of extracorporeal knots, intracorporeal knots, slip knots, and the use of barbed sutures.

The course concluded on June 11th with live surgery observations at Magee Women’s Hospital of UPMC.

WISER was extremely honored to host this important and innovative conference.
WISER holds International Journal Club

WISER holds an International Journal Club that meets monthly to discuss simulation education and the latest research. The Journal Club began in November 2011 with its two founding members, WISER and SimTiki, the simulation center at the University of Hawaii. The Journal Club currently has 15 participants for this meeting.

Dr. Hiroko Iwashita was asked to give her perspective on the Journal Club.

-What is the International Journal Club?

This is a monthly web meeting that centers on the international visiting fellows at WISER and SimTiki in Hawaii. It began November 2011 because of an interest in reviewing the simulation literature and active exchanges by Korean and Japanese fellows at both institutions. The purposes of the Journal Club are 1) to have a greater understanding of simulation-based medical education (SBME), 2) to critique and discuss study design of current simulation research and propose potential research designs for future studies, and 3) to have an opportunity to present and discuss in English. Each institution chooses an article related to SBME and gives a 15 minute slide presentation followed by a discussion. Dr. Ben Berg, director of SimTiki and Dr. Paul Phrampus, director of WISER facilitate the Journal Club. Initially only two sites participated, but the National University of Malaysia and Tokyo Jikei Medical University have joined the Journal Club meeting for a total of four sites with more than 15 participants.

-How do you feel about the Journal Club?

I am happy to meet regular members and to meet new members. We have the same questions and problems in each country: how to create a simulation scenario, how to assess a trainee performance, how to evaluate an education effect, how to debrief, and how to design research. Through this Journal Club, we can share ideas, opinions, and experiences. Also we can understand cultural differences. Our current conditions are almost the same, but our backgrounds are very different. Especially when it comes to communication, the effects of culture on human behavior always needs to be considered.

One of the challenges for me is to critically evaluate simulation research. When I read an article, I tend to praise and accept it with no doubt. I think that is because of not only personality, but the lack of knowledge and point of view. What is the question? What point is being discussed? How has opinion changed, and how could it changed? Our colleagues’ and facilitators’ comments help me realize where the question is and give me a chance to learn and think again. Another difficulty is English. For me, an English speaker as a second language, presentation and discussion in
English are tough. Even though I control the meeting so that only one person speaks at a time, I still miss some words and get confused, or can’t construct my opinion promptly. I know I need practice, practice, practice and receive feedback after sufficient preparation. It is like simulation. At WISER, I have a pre-meeting with my colleagues and Dr. Phrampus before Journal Club.

-Do you feel that the Journal Club is going well?

Yes, I think so. It is developing. At the beginning, we had several issues. One was technical problems with the Internet connections. First we used Skype between SimTiki and WISER, and it worked well. However, since we started to use GoToMeeting due to connecting with more than two sites, there were problems: delays and pauses due to slow network speed, problems with sounds and unclear or loss of pictures. But now, thanks to IT specialists from each site, the technical condition has been getting better. Another issue is scheduling. There is a 13 hour time difference between Pittsburgh and Tokyo. Also all of us are busy, especially both directors. It has been decided that we meet on the second Thursday at 2pm in Hawaii, but it might be changed if a majority of fellows or facilitators can’t be there. Furthermore, the schedule is put on the SimTiki web site and we can get the previous articles and slides and articles for the upcoming meeting.

-What is the prospect of Journal Club in the future?

I would like to attend this Journal Club from Japan after my fellowship. And we will be happy to have the people in the other countries join us. I also hope we could collaborate with them in international research.
Greetings Fellow Simulation Enthusiasts,

It’s been an extremely busy but great summer for simulation here at WISER! This summer kicked off our 5th Anniversary Nursing Simulation Symposium. Several hundred nurse educators from around the world converged in Pittsburgh in late May to take part in this educational and networking endeavor. The symposium was a smashing success. There were a number of keynote speakers with international acclaim who partnered with our local experts to network and share information on the important projects and programs going on throughout the nursing community. The conference included both nursing school and university interests, as well as the great work being accomplished by our colleagues working as hospital based simulation educators. The symposium was preceded by a very successful international iSIM (Improving Simulation Instructional Methods) pre-conference course. There were a total of 24 participants representing 5 countries!

In June, we had the pleasure of opening up our fifth regional WISER satellite center at UPMC East. This brand new, state-of-the-art hospital was designed with a purpose-built simulation center adjacent to the Emergency Department for training staff from all over the hospital. The staffs of WISER designed and then built-out the simulation aspects of the center, and will support the day to day operations and scheduling. We also had the privilege of conducting initial emergency response training for floor nurses, as well as Intensive Care Unit nurses using the WISER First Five Minutes Curriculum. We also assisted the Emergency Department staff in preparing for their opening, and helped with various testing to ensure hospital operations would be as smooth as possible when it opened in July.

I hope your summer has been as busy and productive as ours here at WISER!

Until Next Time, Happy Simulating!

Paul