Wiser to Offer Operational Best Practices for Your Simulation Center

Participants of this two day program will learn best practices associated with the operations of a simulation center. Key operational, administrative, and technological elements of a successful simulation center will be reviewed. Topics such as creating budgets, staff considerations, daily operations, course development, and simulator programming will be discussed. Interactive exercises will allow participants to practice what they learned during course sessions.

This course is run on a quarterly basis and the fee to participate is $900. The next class is scheduled for July 27 – 28, 2011.

Please visit www.wiser.pitt.edu for further information.

Dental Office Management of Emergency Situations (DOMES)

The University of Pittsburgh Dental School now offers Dental Office Management of Emergency Situations (DOMES), a course that supplements didactic training in medical emergencies education at the Dental School. This course is designed to offer dental students and dental hygienists a set of core skills in identification, treatment, and evaluation of dental office emergencies. Dr. Michael Cuddy, Dr. Joseph Giovannitti, assistant professor and associate professor in the Department of Dental Anesthesiology respectively; and Dr. Edward Heinrichs, assistant professor in the Department of Periodontics/Preventive Dentistry are the directors of the DOMES course.

During the spring semester of the third year of the First Professional Program, predoctoral students spend one a half-day at WISER where they have the opportunity to respond to medical emergencies including anaphylactic shock, asthma attack, hypoglycemia, myocardial infarction, seizure, stroke, and syncope. The students work in small groups, mimicking a general practice setting, with one student acting as a dentist and others as an assistant, dental hygienist and , a receptionist, and so on, rotating in the various roles.

DOMES is a mandatory course in the First Professional Program and is now being offered for CE credits.
4th Annual WISER Symposium on Nursing Education

On December 2 and 3, 2010, participants from Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Virginia and even as far as Japan gathered in Pittsburgh at the 4th Annual Symposium on Nursing Simulation sponsored by WISER.

The 2010 areas of focus included:

- Describing unique approaches and opportunities in simulation curriculum development for graduate, undergraduate, and professional nursing educators
- Reviewing recent advances in simulation educational approaches
- Developing skills in simulation curriculum development and implementation
- Participating in interactive sessions and realistic simulation vignettes.

Co-chairs, John M. O’Donnell CRNA, MSN, DrPH and Michele Kuszajewski, RN, MSN, CEN, along with WISER Director, Paul Phrampus, MD provided opening and closing remarks to the international audience.

WISER was pleased to have several distinguished keynote speakers at this year’s symposium. Leland Rockstraw, PhD, RN, FAAN from Drexel University in Philadelphia Pennsylvania spoke about teaching and assessment in nursing simulation. Jeff Groom, RN, CRNA, PhD of Florida International University in Miami, Florida presented a review of the top ten simulation articles of 2010. Bonnie Driggers, RN, MS of Oregon Health and Science University in Portland Oregon spoke about overcoming problems and pitfalls in building your simulation program.

Participants had the opportunity to visit with multiple exhibitors at this year’s symposium and expressed their excitement about the educational opportunities and simulation-based products and services that were well represented.

This year’s agenda also offered break-out sessions on team building in simulation, mastery learning principles in simulation, checklists for assessment tools, and how small and large nursing groups use simulation. Additional topics included the use of moulage in simulation, virtual patients, and developing problem-based simulations. A spirited town hall meeting wrapped up another successful event.
Laerdal Simulation Installation and Programming

WISER is now offering two Laerdal Simulation Installation and Programming courses per month. Laerdal customers from across the country are able to participate in Intro to SimMan, Intro to SimBaby, and Intro to SimMan 3G courses at WISER. These two day introductory courses allow participants to gain a thorough understanding of the manikins, operate the simulator user interface, and plan, program, and run scenarios using an instructional design process. Participants are able to witness firsthand the use of these simulators in an educational environment. Upon completion of the course, participants return to their organization with the skills to assemble and operate their simulator both manually and through programmed scenarios.

2011 International Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare

Dr. Paul Phrampus, Director of WISER, served as one of the three planning committee co-chairs along with Bonnie Driggers and Peter Dieckmann for the International Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare (IMSH) on January 22-26, 2011 in New Orleans, Louisiana. This year, the theme chosen by the planning committee was “Simulation, Improv and All That Jazz,” which complements both the setting in New Orleans as well as the dynamic, innovative nature of simulation.

As one of the meeting co-chairs, Dr. Phrampus was involved with all aspects of planning the meeting. The planning committee met weekly via conference call beginning in January 2010 through the meeting in January 2011 to discuss topics such as educational content, research content, and keynote speakers. Dr. Phrampus also presented several workshops and talks at the meeting.

WISER staff and faculty were also involved with the conference from participating in roundtable discussions to leading workshops and plenary sessions to submitting abstracts. Participants included Thomas Dongilli, John Lutz, Daniel Battista, Melissa Wanker, John M. O’Donnell, CRNA, MSN, PhD, William McIvor, MD, Joseph T. Samosky, PhD, and Amy Seybert, PharmD.

The 2011 meeting broke records for numbers of attendees, faculty, and exhibitors and number of educational sessions offered.

Congratulations to Dr. Phrampus for his efforts in assisting with the planning of this successful meeting!

ASK OPS

When running scenarios that utilize the “Never Occurred” feature in SimMan 3G, perform the following steps to ensure that the “Never Occurred” frames will generate responses in the debriefing log:

- Select “Disable Scenario Runner.”
- After running your scenario, select “End Session” and proceed to the debriefing.
Colleagues,
Hopefully you had a chance to attend the IMSH 2011 meeting in New Orleans. I had the pleasure to preside over the meeting with co-chairs Bonnie Driggers and Peter Dieckmann. What an exciting event! It was to date the largest gathering on the planet of professionals dedicated to Simulation in Healthcare. With over 2,600 participants from 24 different countries made the meeting vibrant, energetic, and scholarly provocative. For me, the meeting is a battery charging event that sets the stage for productivity and innovative work throughout the year.
There is no longer a doubt about the concept of simulation being woven into the fabric of healthcare education globally. Late in December I had the opportunity to visit Ireland to discuss simulation with the Royal College of Surgeons and the College of Anesthetists. Simulation is alive and well there; and it is being used as part of a competency assessment for pathway leading to certification there. Leaving Ireland I headed off to Mainland China to see an emerging exquisite simulation center at the Zhongshan School of Medicine of Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China. It was an incredible commitment to the betterment of education of all healthcare providers in the region.
Following Guangzhou, I visited with simulation centers in Hong Kong at Prince Margaret’s Hospital, The Hong Kong University School of Nursing, and finally at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Simulation activities were ranging from fully embedded to a burgeoning new center at the QE hospital, all demonstrating a significant support of simulation from their respective Universities and Medical Centers.
I am looking forward to WISER continuing to help proliferate excellence in simulation instruction methods throughout the world over the next year. Our iSIM (Improving Simulation Instructional Methods, www.isimcourse.com) program is moving ahead and travelling as well. We have hundreds of alumni touting the excellence of the program and many requests for more. We just returned from Singapore and Malaysia where we held two more successful courses. Upcoming courses will be held in Seoul, Korea, and Hong Kong. It is truly an exciting time to be in simulation!

Until Next Time… Happy Simulating,

Paul