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# WISER

Simulation Improving Healthcare

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## WISER Featured on Local News

On Thursday, May 16th, 2013, KDKA aired a story on how using simulation at WISER prepares first responders and medical professionals for disaster situations. Susan Koeppen from KDKA reported on WISER's capabilities for training individuals for emergency preparedness situations. Mock victims, fake debris, smoke, and audio recordings of explosions and sirens were used to simulate an explosion outside of PNC Park. During the simulation, first responders were on site to treat the victims of the disaster.



The disaster scene was quickly transformed into a trauma bay where the victims, which were manikin-based simulators, were transported for further care. Greg Porter from Ross-West View EMS, and UPMC Emergency Medicine Medical Resident Josh Shulman, were two of the individuals participating in the simulation. Shulman spoke about being well trained and prepared in the emergency department, "...You never know what is going to come in the door, so you need to be prepared for anything. And that's what you get here at WISER."

## WISER offers new Cardiothoracic Surgery Course

WISER took the first step toward new endeavors in surgical simulation with the introduction of a new course offered by the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery. The course, titled "Preparation for CT Surgery Training: Patient Care Problem Based Learning" was held on Saturday June 29th, 2013 and will be the first in a series of courses focusing on surgical simulation. There were 10 cardiothoracic residents and four practicing surgeons in attendance; the surgeons were Danny Chu, MD, FACS, Christopher C. Cook, MD, Jonathan D'Cunha, MD, PhD, FACS, and Peter F. Ferson, MD.



The day consisted of several lectures from Dr. D'Cunha, Dr. Chu, and Dr. Cook, followed by four different practice scenarios which were set up in an oral board format. Each resident visited all four of the simulation rooms, each with a different patient. Each room had a display of the patient's history and current vital signs. The assigned attending surgeon updated the patient's information as the resident walked them through the plan of action they would take with this patient.

The day concluded with a debriefing session for the residents and attending physicians. A short post-test was given at this time, which was used to determine how much knowledge the residents gained when compared to the pre-test that they took before the course started.

## TECH TIP

Prior to each course, a detailed check of simulator functionality should be completed. Specific attention should be applied to the features of the simulator that are going to be utilized within the course. Failure to assure the simulator's features are all functioning properly may result in a compromise of educational objectives.



## WISER Hosts 6th Nursing Simulation Symposium

On June 6th and 7th, WISER hosted the 6th Annual Symposium on Nursing Simulation. There were nurses, clinical and academic nurse educators, and nurse anesthetists from all over the world. The morning lectures for both days were held at the Hilton Garden Inn and for the first time ever, the afternoon breakout sessions were held at WISER. Some highlights of this year's symposium included discussions on Leadership skills, Assessment methods, Program development, Debriefing methods, and many more topics relating to the promotion of best practices in simulation and nursing. Featured speakers for the two-day symposium included:



- Benjamin Berg, MD, who conducted a breakout session about Curriculum Development and Integration.
- Jeffrey Groom, PhD, CRNA, spoke at a breakout session on the topic of Building Simulation Projects & Papers, and also held a session titled “Climbing the Bridge to the Top 10 Articles”.
- Melinda Fiedor Hamilton, MD, MSc, who is a WISER Associate Director, was also a featured keynote speaker. Dr. Hamilton gave a presentation titled, “Simulating a Seamless Move”.
- Suzie Kardong-Edgren, PhD, RN, presented the topic titled “Crossing the Bridge from Simulation to Publishing”, and conducted a breakout session with Dr. Groom titled Building Simulation Projects & Papers.
- John M. O'Donnell, CRNA, MSN, DrPH, one of WISER's own Associate Directors, helped to welcome all of the participants to the symposium and spoke on topics such as “Structured and Supported Debriefing: How to Reinforce Your Student's Learning”, and “Assessment in Simulation: Making it Fun”.
- WISER's own Director, Paul Phrampus, MD was also a featured keynote speaker. He presented the topic titled “Past, Present, & Future: Building the Simulation Bridge”.

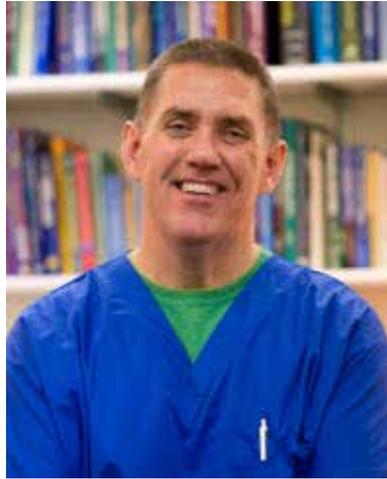
WISER would like to thank all of the presenters that made this year's symposium a success, and would also like to acknowledge all of the vendors who were present this year:

- Laerdal Medical Corporation (Sponsor for breakfast and break on Day 2)
- B-Line Medical
- Institute for Research, Education, and Training in Addictions (IRETA)
- Healthy Simulation
- Medline Industries, Inc
- Pocket Nurse
- The NLN
- University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing Student Services-Recruitment
- WorldPoint

WISER looks forward to hosting another successful Nursing Symposium next year.

## John M. O'Donnell CRNA, MSN, DrPH promoted to Professor of Nursing

Dr. John O'Donnell was recently promoted to the rank of full 'Professor' at the University of Pittsburgh. The process, which includes internal School of Nursing review, University review, and review by faculty from around the United States, took place over the past 6 months and culminated in his promotion on April 19, 2013 by University of Pittsburgh Provost Dr. Patricia Beeson. O'Donnell completed his BSN from Carlow College in 1983, his MSN from the University of Pittsburgh in 1991 and his Doctorate in Public Health (DrPH, epidemiology) from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health in 2009. His doctoral dissertation entitled "Development of an Optimal Patient Transfer Task Set and Simulation-Based Intervention to Reduce Musculoskeletal Injury in Healthcare Workers" was named the dissertation of year by the Department of Epidemiology. He was named to the 'Graduate Faculty' of the University in 2010.



O'Donnell's professional career as a nurse has spanned med-surg, oncology, PACU, obstetrics, ICU care, and since 1991- nurse anesthesia. He has been the Director of the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing, Nurse Anesthesia Program since 1994. The program has been ranked as a Top 10 Graduate Nurse Anesthesia Program by US News and World Report since 1998 - one of only 3 programs nationally to be ranked in the top 10 over this period. The program has also received two consecutive 10 year accreditation reports (1999-2009, 2009-2019) without a single citation or area of weakness.

John is dedicated to the nursing and nurse anesthesia professions as well as to the University of Pittsburgh. In 2006 he was named a lifetime Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing, in 2010 was honored with a Cameos of Caring Outstanding Nursing Educator Award, and in 2011 received the Chancellors Distinguished Teaching Award- the most prestigious teaching award given by the University. Additionally, he was honored as National Program Director of the Year in 2006 by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists and has served in leadership positions on the state and national levels including state Treasurer, Finance Chair, and as a Chair Reviewer for Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs.

O'Donnell has been active in medical simulation education since 1994, and was named the Assistant Director of WISER in 2004 and Associate Director in 2006. Recently, he was named Co-Director of Research at WISER (2012) and assisted WISER in becoming the first civilian simulation center to achieve full accreditation in all four domains (Research, Assessment, Teaching and System Integration). He is a member of the WISER Research Committee and has mentored multiple doctoral and master's student projects. He is also a co-author of the iSIM Course which is offered on an international basis and is well known as the lead author of the American Heart Association's "Structured and Supported Debriefing" online program. Areas of scholarly and research interest include patient safety, provider safety, development of procedural skills using simulation, mastery education, interprofessional simulation, technology use in education, and debriefing in simulation and clinical education. His interest in provider safety is consistent with his longstanding interest in patient safety. Since 2003 he has been one of only 2 CRNAs to sit on the national Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation (APSF) Board of Directors.

## UPCOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

### OPERATIONAL BEST PRACTICES

Sept. 4 - 5, 2013

### MOCA

Aug. 10th and 24th, 2013

Sept. 7th and 21st, 2013

### OPERATIONAL BEST PRACTICES

Dec. 3 - 4, 2013

### ISIM

March 12 - 14, 2014

For more course offerings visit

[www.wiser.pitt.edu](http://www.wiser.pitt.edu)



## WISER hosts portion of Safar Symposium

WISER hosted the second day of the 11th Annual Safar Symposium on Friday May 17th, 2013. This was the first time that the simulation portion of the program was held on a separate day. The focus of this year's simulation portion of the Safar Symposium was **MILITARY MEDICINE AND TRAUMA SIMULATION**. Leaders in trauma training from around the country spoke about implementing simulation into trauma training, as well as the need for training in military medicine. The morning started off with WISER Director Paul Phrampus, MD giving a brief introduction on the morning's topics. Presenters for the morning session included:



- Rebecca C. Britt, MD, FACS, from EVMS/Sentara Center for Surgical Education and Eastern Virginia Medical School. Dr. Britt spoke about : “Trauma Training 2013 - The Role of Simulation”
- Carl Schulman, MD, PhD, MSPH, FACS, from the William Lehman Injury research Center and DeWitt Daughtry Family Department of Surgery spoke on the topic of: “MobileCARE and Trauma Education: A New Era in Mobile Learning”
- John L. Falcone, MD, MS, from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center spoke about : “Trauma Resuscitation Team Leaders: Institutional Experience of Simulation Based Team Leadership Training”
- J. Harvey Magee from Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center (TARRC) spoke on the topic of: “Medical Simulation Research and its Potential to Improve Trauma Training”
- Robert F. Buckman Jr., MD, FACS from Operative Experience, Inc. (OEI) spoke on the topic called: “The Real Cutting Edge”

WISER also provided a free live webcast and an online chat interface so individuals who were unable to attend could contribute feedback during the question and answer session after each presentation.

WISER would like to thank the presenters for their knowledge and insight into the evolving world of simulation.

## WISER participates in 3rd MedTASS Conference

WISER, in conjunction with UPMC, the Mediterranean Institute for Transplantation and Advanced Specialized Therapies (ISMETT), and the Renato Fiandaca Simulation Center, held the 3rd Mediterranean Transplantation Anesthesiology and Simulation Symposium (MedTASS) at the Grand Hotel Villa Igia in Palermo, Italy on April 12-13, 2013. International experts presented reviews of current standards of practice in anesthesia, and also presented reviews of anesthesia based simulation scenarios. This year's conference had over 175 participants from all over Italy.



Several WISER faculty members were part of this conference: Dr. John Williams, Chair of the Department of Anesthesia, Dr. Raymond Planinsic, who served as Conference Cochairman, Dr. Joseph Quinlan, Dr. David Metro, and Dr. Kenichi Tanaka.

Simulation was used in this conference to teach and demonstrate techniques used in dealing with critical operating room scenarios, developing an understanding of potential medical errors, and practicing crisis-management skills. The following are a few of the scenarios that were presented: Difficult Airway Management in the OR (Anesthesia Crisis: Can't Ventilate or Intubate), Anesthesia Crisis: Anaphylactic Shock During Induction, Post Cardiac Surgery Cardiac Arrest, Arrhythmia and Hemodynamic Instability During Extubation and Cardiogenic Shock: How to Proceed to Save Lives. This year's conference was a success and WISER looks forward to the next MedTASS conference that will be held in 2015.

## Pitt School of Nursing and WISER host National Diversity in Nurse Anesthesia Mentorship Program

On March 1-3, 2013, the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing and WISER collaborated to host the National Diversity in Nurse Anesthesia Mentorship Program. This event brings together Program Directors, CRNA's, SRNA's and Nurses for an informative and interactive weekend of socialization and skill development.

The event began Friday March 1st with an informal "Meet and Greet" reception to introduce the attendees to panel participants and Program Directors (John O'Donnell, University of Pittsburgh, MaryBeth Massie, University of New England, Marjorie Geisz-Everson, the University of Southern Mississippi, and Danilo Lovinaria, University of Minnesota).



Saturday, March 2nd began with an introduction of the day's events by the SRNA moderator Ms. Tahirah Marks (University of Pittsburgh) with welcome from Wallena Gould CRNA, EdD, Founder and Director of the Diversity in Nurse Anesthesia Mentoring Program, and Mr. John Bing CRNA, Chair of the Diversity in Nurse Anesthesia Mentoring Program Board of Directors. Dr. Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob, PhD, RN, FAAN (Professor and Dean, University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing) and Ms. Paula Davis, University of Pittsburgh Senior Vice Chancellor of Diversity in Health Sciences the welcomed more than 100 participants to the University of Pittsburgh. Panel discussions by student anesthetists and CRNA educators and clinicians were the main focus of the Saturday event. The SRNA panel consisted of 12 students representing various schools and levels in their respective programs. Questions pertaining to entry, preparation for and during the programs, a typical day as a student, clinicals, and balance of life and school, were fielded by the panel participants. The student moderator for the event was Ms. Tahirah Marks SRNA, BSN (University of Pittsburgh). Following the student panel was AANA President Mr. Dennis Bless CRNA, MS who described the state of the anesthesia profession and prospects for the future. Finally, a CRNA practitioner panel fielded questions on CRNA practice, national certification examination preparation, expectations of clinical preceptors, and characteristics of successful students was lead by Ms. Loren Pulliam CRNA, MSN, John Bing, CRNA, Captain Cesar Visurruga, CRNA, MSN, and Bob Gauvin, CRNA, MS. Other University of Pittsburgh students who volunteered as mentors and facilitators included Jamal Hawkins, Thea Cole, and Micheline Jeter-Ogagnan. "The beauty of this event is the interaction between the participants and the CRNA's, SRNA's, and Program Faculty. Everyone is approachable and easy to engage in conversation. To have this kind of information available to you is an amazing gift." Ms. Marks said of the event.

On Sunday March 3rd, a clinical skills and simulation session was held at WISER. The participants that attended were amazed with the facility. Activities included intubation (nasally, orally and with fiber optics), LMA placement, mask ventilation, spinal anesthesia, induction of general anesthesia and a personal interview with a CRNA educator. Instructors included SRNAs, Hideru Inoue, Dawn Mills, Michael Laughter, Audrey Miller, Kristin Adkins, Tahirah Marks, Lang Conteh, Joey Ferriero, and Leah Ulizio. During the session, Dr. Lena Gould, CRNA, DNP and the founder of the mentoring program stated "the mission of the Diversity in Nurse Anesthesia Mentorship Program is to inform, empower, and mentor underserved diverse populations with information to prepare for a successful career in Nurse Anesthesia." Ms. Gould has been recognized across the United States for her efforts by both Nurse Anesthesia and Nursing groups.

## Director's Corner

Data Flow, Operations and Communications – Automate to Allow the Teachers to Innovate, Create and Teach!

After discussing struggles of scheduling, course evaluation data, usage information in class rosters with center directors from around the world, I realize that we have fully integrated operations and data flow into the operations of our center. Simulation programs are complex array of interactions between many stakeholders including faculty members to create and teach programs, students who are the ultimate beneficiaries of said programs as well as the operations, administrative and research teams who are busy working to ensure simulation-based education programs happen in most efficient and effective manner. When we sit down and analyze the complexity of the data sharing and communications traffic that allows WISER to function in an efficient way, it is astounding.

Our SIMS (Simulation Information Management System) system sits in the background of everything that we do in the day-in-and-day-out process that affects WISER. Part of the success of our operations resides within the fact we've created a system that prioritizes the needs of a highly functioning, busy simulation center. For example, knowing that SIMS has sent out thousands of automated e-mail reminders in the last two months regarding course requirements, as well as enabled faculty members to download their student rosters and collate their student feedback and performance, makes me pause and reflect at how important the system really is. The administrative burden of creating simulation content and actively managing simulation-based education encounters is one of the hidden barriers to simulation insofar as it takes highly qualified teaching faculty members time and effort to conduct processes that should be automated. This allows for the faculty members to creatively look for new ways to push the boundaries of innovation with regard to education and assessment of the healthcare providers of tomorrow.

I encourage you to objectively evaluate the areas of your program that can be automated to free up the talent in the minds of your most precious resource, that being the individuals that are committed to creating and teaching simulation-based educational content.

Until Next Time,  
Happy Simulating,  
-Paul



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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Paul'.