



WISER

Simulation Improving Healthcare

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New Cardiothoracic Surgery Course Starting This Month at WISER!

WISER debuted a new surgical simulation course this week. The Preparation for CT Surgery—Cardiac Simulation Lab course is a surgical simulation course targeted towards Cardiothoracic Surgery Residents. This course specializes in Coronary Anastomosis, which focuses on maintaining proper blood supply in vessels to the heart. The residents utilized tissue to practice aortic and venous cannulation in a simulated environment. This course was created by Dr. Chris Cook, who is a board certified physician in Cardiothoracic Vascular Surgery.



Delegation from the Embassy of Libya Visits WISER

WISER was pleased to host a team of delegates from the embassy of Libya. Dr. Esam Omeish, Dr. Mahmoud Omar and Mr. Walid Al-Soor had the opportunity to learn from Tom Dongilli (WISER Director of Operations) about WISER and how the center plays a key role in patient safety at UPMC and the University of Pittsburgh. Following a brief presentation the delegation was led on an informative tour of center.



TECH TIP

When did you Reboot Last?

As most people know, many different software programs we run on the computers “leak” memory. Essentially, the program will use part of the random access memory, or RAM. The loss of memory can significantly impact the operations of other programs, without your knowledge, often until it is too late. One process that is recommended to help combat this problem is to ensure the simulator and AVS computers are rebooted frequently. Specifically, anytime you are running a high stakes simulation and will be recording the session, reboot both systems prior to running the class/session. While this may not completely eliminate recording issues, it will certainly go a long way to help decrease the impact the memory leak can have on you system.



WISER at 2014 IMSH

WISER will again be in attendance of the International Meeting for Simulation in Healthcare from January 27-29, 2014 in San Francisco, California. WISER staff members will be presenting on several different topics including: Creation of Policy and Procedure Manuals, Developing and Understanding Metrics to Run Your Simulation Program, Enhancing Operational Efficiency, Improving Interviewing Techniques, Positions at a Simulation Center, and Creating Cost Models. Tom Dongilli will be serving as the conferences Program Co Chair, and Dr. Paul Phrampus will begin his tenure as Past President of the Society for Simulation in Healthcare. This year, WISER will also have a booth in the exhibit hall (booth Number 237). WISER looks forward to being a part of another successful meeting of the IMSH this year.



WISER welcomes Preceptors from Tokyo Healthcare University

WISER is pleased to have welcomed individuals from Tokyo Healthcare University. Visiting WISER were Dr. Kazuhiko Yamashita, Kaori Kusuda and Yuta Funayama. During their time here, they were exposed to creating preprogrammed scenarios for simulations, different methodologies in debriefing, and the role of a simulation specialist at a simulation center. They were also educated in the use of information technology and how it can be utilized to conduct research and create courses at WISER. It was a pleasure having them here for five days



New Simulation Specialist

WISER is happy to announce a new addition to the Operations team. Joseph “Jay” Dunham joined the team as a Simulation Specialist in November, 2013. Jay was an internal transfer from UPMC Passavant where he worked as a Biomedical Equipment Technician. Jay is also a member of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard where he functions in the role of Medical Training NCO Support. While on active duty with the U. S. Army, Jay functioned as a Human Resources Specialist for the 2-112th Striker Battalion, stationed at Camp Liberty in Iraq. During his military career, Jay has been awarded the Army Commendation Medal, received recognition for High Honors graduate of the Medical Education and Training Campus, as well as multiple Army Achievement Medals.



New Sim Center at UPMC Shadyside

WISER added a new satellite center at UPMC Shadyside. As part of the collaboration and support WISER offers, existing simulation center technology and software improvements were completed. These improvements included upgrades to the simulator and its associated technology, installation of new A/V technologies, and incorporation of course material into the WISER Simulation Information Management System.



UPCOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

MOCA

1/11/2014
2/8/2014
2/22/2014
3/15/2014
4/5/2014
5/31/2014
6/21/2014
7/12/2014
8/16/2014
9/20/2014
10/25/2014
11/15/2014
12/13/2014

ISIM

March 12 - 14, 2014

For more course offerings visit
www.wiser.pitt.edu



UPMC East WISER Satellite

The first official class at the new the newly renovated UPMC East WISER Center was conducted on Thursday, 12/15/13. The newly renovated center is located in the Demarco Building, right next to UPMC East in Monroeville, PA. The Demarco Building houses the Clinical and Nursing Education departments and UPMC East Support Services. In addition to the WISER Center, the education center houses state of the art classrooms and computer labs, as well as office space for the education staff.



The simulation room at the center is an exact replica of a patient room at UPMC East, and was used as a test room for placement of equipment during the planning and construction phases of the hospital. The center provides a familiar environment for the continuing education of current UPMC East staff, and an ideal place for the orientation and training of new staff.

Over the next few weeks and months, the Education and WISER staffs will work together to complete instructor training on the new equipment and increase the number and variety of courses available at the center. Once the programs have begun, the UPMC East WISER Center will play a crucial role in the continuing education of the UPMC East staff, and help improve patient safety throughout the UPMC Health System.

**Come see us
at the
2013 IMSH
Booth #237**

WISER welcomes Dr. Su-Jin Kim

WISER is happy to announce that Su-Jin Kim, MD has joined WISER as a visiting fellow. Dr. Kim is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Korea University Medical Center. During her time here, Dr. Kim will spend time learned the fundamentals of medical simulation and how she can adapt them to her teachings at her simulation center in South Korea. WISER would like to give a warm welcome to Dr. Kim.



WISER toured by delegation from the University of Macau

On November 13th, 2013 a delegation from the University of Macau toured WISER as part of their visit to University of Pittsburgh and UPMC. The University of Macau is located in China and was established in 1981. The University of Macau has a new campus and is making an investment in more than 60 new buildings several of which are going to be used for a brand new medical school. The University's goal is to become the hub of Macau's health services industry, because the city needs a health services industry to benefit its citizens. While touring WISER they were shown how the University of Pittsburgh and UPMC include medical simulation in the training of their students and healthcare professionals respectively.



Spotlight on WISER Courses: Operational Best Practices for Your Simulation Center

WISER offers the Operational Best Practices for Your Simulation Center (OBPYSC) course which caters to individuals who want to learn how to facilitate the day-to-day operations and management of a simulation center. This two day course gives participants the opportunity to learn administrative aspects, technological elements as well as daily operational functions of a simulation center. Interactive exercises given by WISER experts provide the participants the ability to practice what they learned after each topic and have their questioned answered. Topics include: budgets and effective billing models, staffing considerations, job descriptions, policies and procedures overview, course development, repair and maintenance, and simulator programming including much more.



Center directors, leadership, Operational directors and personnel are the targeted audience for this comprehensive course. The core infrastructure for this program is applicable to programs that range from small to large. For more information on this course please visit the WISER website at www.wiser.pitt.edu.

Director's Corner

Accreditation is a Good Thing

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe it has been a year since we were notified of our approval to be accredited by the Society for Simulation in Healthcare. We were approved in all four areas of competence, including Education, Assessment, Research and Systems Integration. Reflecting on this, I can say I was skeptical of the value of the program at first, but now I'm more convinced than ever that it was the right thing to do. In addition to our improvement upon many policies, procedures, and administrative guidelines, the accreditation process forced us to look at our history in the past, to look at the present, and to evaluate the future in a way that is still resonating with us a year later.

I can truly say that the staff and leadership of WISER think in terms of quality improvement programs and projects not only associated with our existing programs, but also with our new programs that are in development. The SSH Accreditation program has enabled us to align our programs with the best practices that have been established. Additionally it helps motivate our subject matter experts to align their simulation efforts with these best practices as well. It is encouraging to me to see, more than ever before, the entire WISER leadership team thinking on the same page. We are working as a team to understand the importance of quality improvement, documentation of process, and overall standardization in the name of improving what we do with our simulation efforts.

On behalf of the leadership and staff of WISER I hope that you have a warm and healthy holiday season.

Until Next Time,
Happy Simulating,
Paul



**FOR FURTHER
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