The WISER Way:

The Winter Institute for Simulation, Education, and Research (WISER), a collaboration between UPMC and the University of Pittsburgh, is the world's leading healthcare simulation center affiliated with an academic medical center.

At WISER, current and future healthcare professionals of all levels can perform complex and critical procedures on a variety of patient simulators, which include adult, pediatric, and obstetrical manikins. Task trainers, representing specific anatomical systems, help participants learn technical procedures, such as difficult airway management, central line insertion, and surgical techniques. Beyond the classroom, WISER routinely runs programs across UPMC hospitals to identify how personnel and systems can improve their response to critical clinical events.

WISER offers more than realistic portrayals of human physiology. WISER's sophisticated equipment and software can make a patient case scenario more challenging by simulating a sudden unexpected complication or reaction to the participants' interventions. These systems also record data and can provide objective feedback to participants after the simulation, enriching and standardizing the learning experience. The data from the simulation sessions can also be used for research and the development of new education programs.

Using the web-based Simulation Information Management System (SIMS) - developed at WISER - staff, faculty, and students can interact from across the globe. SIMS provides an operational and educational backbone, efficiently scheduling classes, delivering cutting edge curriculum, and collecting and reporting on vital data that allows WISER to be a premier healthcare simulation education program.

By quickly implementing this learning in the care of actual patients at UPMC hospitals, and by sharing results with the healthcare community through published articles, WISER improves patient safety in the Pittsburgh area and around the world.

WISER Facilities:

- 20,000 square-foot main facility supporting UPMC and the University of Pittsburgh Schools of Health Sciences
- WISER operates 8 Satellite Centers at UPMC hospitals across Western Pennsylvania
- Equipped with human patient simulators & task trainers
- Sophisticated online assessment tools
- Video teleconferencing capabilities
- State-of-the-art customizable simulation environments that can realistically portray: Operating Rooms, Emergency & Trauma Rooms, Intensive Care Units, Patient Rooms, and Outdoor Disaster Sites
WISER Highlights:

- Accredited by the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH) in all categories (Teaching/Education, Assessment, Research, and System Integration)
- Staffed by CHSOS Certified Simulation Operation Specialists
- Endorsed by the American Society of Anesthesiologists
- Maintenance of Certification in Anesthesiology - Certified Center
- Laerdal Medical Center of Educational Excellence
- Basic Life Support and Advanced Cardiac Life Support Certification Center
- System-based patient safety courses improving care delivery in UPMC hospitals
- Diverse course offerings for the University of Pittsburgh Schools of Health Sciences, supporting the development of future healthcare professionals

Professional Development Programs:

- iSIM: Improving Simulation Instructional Methods
- Tech Sim
- WISER International Simulation & Research Scholar Programs
- Customized courses for the development of simulation expertise
WISER at a Glance

The WISER mission is to improve the quality and safety of care delivery through innovative educational approaches including effective integration of simulation. This mission fulfills itself in academic curricula, hospital-based training initiatives, research, advanced instructional technology, and the development of innovative simulation programs.

WISER is a world leader in healthcare simulation. For over a quarter of a century, WISER has trained and informed tens of thousands of future and practicing healthcare professionals in a variety of simulation settings. WISER participants include undergraduate nurses, medical students, residents, fellows, practicing physicians and nurses, pharmacists, respiratory therapists, visiting international scholars, and professionals from many other disciplines.

For more information about WISER, email us at wiserhelp@upmc.edu.

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