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SIMULATION EXCHANGE



Your Source for VHA Simulation News

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In This Issue:

- [Simulation Exchange now an e-newsletter](#)
- [SimLEARN musculoskeletal training designer named VA's best physician assistant](#)
- [VHA National Simulation Center offers Fundamentals of Critical Care Support course](#)
- [Additional sim centers earn certifications](#)

Featured Training: Code Team Simulator Instructor Training

is face-to-face training designed to address the gap of qualified clinicians who can facilitate Code Team training using simulation. This course combines didactic, small group and hands-on simulation activities. For more information or to check out upcoming classes, [click here](#).

For more information, visit www.simlearn.va.gov or [send us an e-mail](#).



Simulation Exchange now an e-newsletter

By Gerald Sonnenberg
EES Marketing and Communication

ORLANDO, Fla. – With the edition you are now reading, *Simulation Exchange* is now an e-mail-based e-newsletter delivered right to your inbox!

This move to a new format sustains *Simulation Exchange's* seven-year legacy as an award-winning publication to highlight the SimLEARN program and training associated with the VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center in Orlando, Florida. As the SimLEARN program and training opportunities have grown, so has the need to market news about the training benefits of the program more often than a quarterly publication can provide. Staff depend on SimLEARN's innovative training programs to improve their skill as clinicians and, most importantly, improve the care Veterans receive.

As a result, *Simulation Exchange* will have fewer stories, but will be published at least monthly. The featured stories and training will also be available on the SimLEARN website [here](#). Please share this message with others with an interest in simulation training.

To manage your subscription, click [here](#).



SimLEARN musculoskeletal training designer named VA's best physician assistant

By Gerald Sonnenberg
EES Marketing and Communication

SALT LAKE CITY – Andrea M. Barker, MPAS, PA-C, was named the 2016 Veterans Affairs Physician Assistant Association's (VAPAA) Outstanding Clinical Physician Assistant March 1 at the VAPAA annual conference, held in Houston, Feb. 27 - March 3.

Barker is recognized for her work as co-director and developer of the VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center Musculoskeletal Master Educator and Master Clinician Training Programs, and as a physician assistant and co-director of the Center of Excellence in Musculoskeletal (MSK) Care and Education at the George E. Whalen VA Health Care System (VAHCS) here.

Barker left a private orthopedic practice in November 2011 to perform primary care for Veterans in VHA.

"I wanted to make a larger impact on health care and felt that my experience and interest in MSK care would be valuable for Veterans suffering from chronic pain," said Barker.

[Click here](#) for the rest of the story.



VHA National Simulation Center offers Fundamentals of Critical Care Support course

By Gerald Sonnenberg
EES Marketing and Communication

ORLANDO, Fla. – On March 16, students participated in one of the first Fundamentals of Critical Care Support (FCCS) courses at the VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center in Orlando.

The purpose of this face-to-face (FTF) simulation training is to address the gap in qualified clinicians who can facilitate fundamental critical support health care using simulation.

This course introduces principles important in the initial care of critically ill/injured patients to physicians, physicians-in-training, nurses and other health care providers who may or may not be skilled in critical care, but who must care for such patients during early stabilization and in anticipation of the arrival of an intensivist, specialist or pending transfer of a patient to a tertiary center. This program targets novice/aspiring medical simulation educators across varied disciplines.

For more about this course or to enroll, [click here](#).

In the photo, (left to right) Dr. Jose Lozano Garcia, chief resident in Quality and Patient Safety, Orlando VA Medical Center and University of Central Florida; Dr. John Barwise, MB, ChB, Tennessee Valley Healthcare System; and Jen Dreher, APN, Tele-ICU, Cincinnati VA Medical Center, participate in the March 16 Fundamentals of Critical Care Support training. (VA photo by Werner Robles)



Additional sim centers earn certifications

ORLANDO, Fla. – SimLEARN staff recently awarded new simulation certifications to qualified facilities. These certifications are awarded twice each year; in June and December. Facility certifications last for two years and are renewable. They are a distinctive accomplishment.

There are three tiers of certification: basic, intermediate and advanced. Below is the list of newly certified facilities and their certification level:

- VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System (Omaha VA Medical Center) – Omaha, Nebraska – **Advanced**
- Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center (VAMC) – Charleston, South Carolina – **Intermediate**
- VA Maryland Health Care System (Baltimore VAMC) – Baltimore, Maryland – **Intermediate**
- Milwaukee VAMC – Milwaukee, Wisconsin – **Intermediate**
- West Texas VA Health Care System (George H. O'Brien Jr. VAMC) – Big Spring, Texas – **Basic**
- Oklahoma City VA Health Care System – Oklahoma City, Oklahoma – **Basic**
- Birmingham VA Medical Center - Birmingham, Alabama – **Basic**
- Orlando VA Medical Center – Orlando, Florida – **Basic**
- Central Iowa Health Care System – Des Moines, Iowa – **Basic**
- VA Black Hills Health Care System – Fort Meade, South Dakota – **Basic**

A facility can request certification after one year of existence while meeting the basic level criteria. A non-binding email of intent and certification application is required. Please contact the team by sending an email to EESFacilitySimulationCertification@va.gov. For a full list of certified simulation centers, [click here](#).



Simulation Exchange is a product of the VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center. The program's operations and management is conducted by the VHA Employee Education System in close collaboration with the Office of Patient Care Services and the Office of Nursing Services. Some links go directly to sites that can only be accessed by people who have access to the VA network. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Please share this message with others. To manage your subscription, click [here](#). For more information, visit www.simlearn.va.gov.