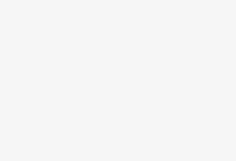


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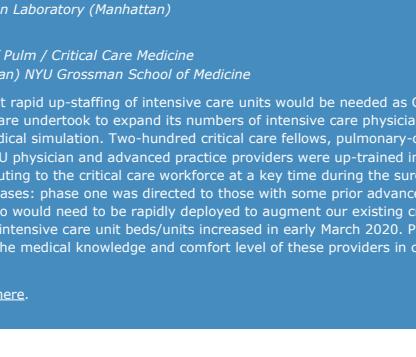
SimLEARN
Excellence in Veterans' Healthcare
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In This Issue:

- SimLEARN Transitions to DEAN's Umbrella
- A Sustained Medical Simulation Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic
- REDI to Save Lives
- Leveraging Innovation and Technology to Advance Simulation Education
- How COVID-19 Improved the Structure and Processes of Simulation Portals of Care Ultrasound Classes
- VISN 6 Nursing Professional Development (NPD) and Simulation Virtual Collaborative Conference
- Core Team Expands its Portfolio

SimLEARN Transitions to DEAN's UmbrellaBy Maggie Loughran, CAPM
Consultant, Atlass Research
VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center

ORLANDO, Fla. – 2020 has caused shifts in many business practices, but one of the most exciting repertoires for the VHA SimLEARN organization is how it now encompasses within its Office of Discovery, Education and Military Networks (DEAN) under the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). Previously, SimLEARN was a part of VHA's Employee Education Systems (EES), according to Debrah C. Bruns, SimLEARN's manager by the qualities that come with being part of the DEAN team. We thrive on driving the VHA's evolution into a highly reliable, learning organization. Our ability to provide training using simulation for education has increased exponentially. This new realignment represents a strategic move that will further support SimLEARN's mission to enhance Veteran health care quality through the use and dissemination of simulation training, education, and training to facilitate workforce development.

DEAN's umbrella of four offices – Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA), Office of Health Advancement Partnerships (HAP), Office of Education and Learning (OEL), Office of Research and Development (ORD) – serve to support and coordinate with facility-based educators, researchers, and clinicians to drive ongoing improvement in education, training, and advancements in scientific research. Under the leadership of Carolyn Cleary, "DEAN is well-positioned to welcome SimLEARN into our thriving community. Our vision is to establish this organization as the world leader of clinical simulation based practices, and we could not be more excited to partner with our colleagues within our umbrella. The DEAN office is uniquely positioned to lead the effort to advance medical research and healthcare education for its professionals, with SimLEARN now at the forefront of this mission."

For the rest of the story, click [here](#).Image of the VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center.
(VA courtesy photo)[Back to top](#)**A Sustained Medical Simulation Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic**

By Brian Kaufman MD, FCCM

Director, New York VA Harbor Simulation Laboratory (Manhattan)

Samir Naik MD
Simulation Fellow / Division of Pulm / Critical Care Medicine
New York VA Harbor (Manhattan) NYU Grossman School of Medicine

New York, NY – Realizing that rapid up-staffing of intensive care units would be needed as COVID-19 surged, VA NY Harbor Healthcare undertook to expand its numbers of intensive care physicians and physician extenders providing critical care, non-intubated care fellows, non-emergency-only faculty, and non-intubated ICU physician and advanced practice providers. Up-training in this manner over 6 weeks, contributing to the critical care workforce at a key time during the surge. This up-training occurred in two phases: phase one was directed to those with some prior advanced intensive care training who would be to rapidly deployed to augment the existing critical care faculty as the volume of intensive care unit beds/units increased in early March 2020. These two focused on trying to improve the medical knowledge and comfort level of these providers in critical care medicine.

For the rest of the story, click [here](#).

Elizabeth Priestley, a psychiatric nurse practitioner at the Alvin C. York campus of Tennessee Valley Healthcare System, works on a CPR training manikin.

[Back to top](#)**Leveraging Innovation and Technology to Advance Simulation Education**By Cherie A. Bolden-Dickerson, BS
Project Manager

VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center

ORLANDO, Fla. – What was initially expected to be a 30-day hiatus for face-to-face training quickly turned into a sustained medical simulation response. As the VHA SimLEARN faculty and staff were put in place and the COVID-19 pandemic fast moved to both the staff at SimLEARN are rolling out a new and innovative training model where distanced learning meets simulation. Through the SimLEARN Virtual Academy, we will offer a training platform that eliminates travel and delivers both synchronous courses and asynchronous learning experiences to learners where they are. Although we have lost the ability to connect face to face in a traditional learning environment, our new direction in education will allow us to maximize productivity and better utilize our resources which will have a great impact on how learners will care for our Veterans.

For the rest of the story, click [here](#).[Back to top](#)**How COVID-19 Improved the Structure and Processes of Simulation Portals of Care Ultrasound Classes**By Jason G. Schiefele, DNP, APRN, CPNR, RN-BC
Program Director, Simulation/RNEd

Tampa VAMC

Tampa, FL – Prior to COVID-19, the James A. Haley VA Advanced Simulation Center had been committed to training over 60 University of South Florida (USF) Post Year Graduate Year 3 (PGY3) students per year in two four-hour daily simulations learning how to use and share the obliquity ultrasound images taken on the COVID-19 pandemic, simulation class size was downsized to ensure safe social distancing when having skill practice sessions, courses were often split into multiple sessions, and students even became the patient during simulations.

"Being the patient getting this procedure made me aware of the dynamic communications we need to focus on when we work with our veterans. Feeling how uncomfortable the ultrasound probe felt, lets me know to advise the patient that it may feel uncomfortable and if a veteran let me know if I need to alter how hard I am pressing on them," stated a PGY3 student who wanted to remain anonymous. COVID-19 seemed to be a negative challenge in some simulation centers, our new way of teaching Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) classes has been enhanced for the future way we will offer this type of course.

For the rest of the story, click [here](#).[Back to top](#)**VISN 6 Nursing Professional Development (NPD) and Simulation Virtual Collaborative Conference**

Top left: Jonathan Nguyen (Richmond, VA); Top right: Elizabeth Nichols (SAE); Lower left: Cathy Hebert (Asheville, NC); Lower right: Mary E. Holtschneider (Durham, NC).



Top left: Jonathan Nguyen (Richmond, VA); Top right: Elizabeth Nichols (SAE); Lower left: Cathy Hebert (Asheville, NC); Lower right: Mary E. Holtschneider (Durham, NC).

By Cathy Hebert, PhD, RN, GCNS-BC
Education Specialist / Learning Resources Service
Western North Carolina VA Health Care System

Mary E. Holtschneider, MEd, MBA, BSN, RN, NP-BC

VISN 6 Simulation Co-Chair
Co-Director, Interprofessional Advanced Fellowship in Clinical Simulation

Durham, North Carolina VA Health Care System

North Carolina – VISN 6 Nursing Professional Development (NPD) and Simulation Educators celebrated their first virtual conference. The longstanding monthly VISN 6 wide meetings span over a decade, and now have paved the way for a new tradition, a digital platform conference bringing NPD practitioners and Simulation Educators from all seven VISN 6 facilities together for learning and sharing in a virtual environment.

To maximize the educational experience, the conference was held over three consecutive days of October 28, 29, & 30, from 1-4 pm on Wed and Thursday, and 10-12 on Friday. This allowed for participants to attend to the needs of their facilities in the morning, then focus on learning and sharing in the afternoon. Small breakout groups identified best practices regarding selected subtopics, including hospital-wide education, education management, outpatient, acute care, RQI, preceptor programs, orientation, and RN Transition to Practice. In addition to the educational sessions, educational presentations were offered on High Reliability, virtual programming, Nursing Professional Development Scope and Standards of Practice, and VISN 6 Strategic Initiatives.

For the rest of the story, click [here](#).[Back to top](#)**Core Team Expands its Portfolio**

By Roberto CruzFernandez, BBA

Acting Project Manager

VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center

ORLANDO, Fla. – The VHA SimLEARN Core Team is finalizing the course portfolio to meet the training gaps due to the current environment but is covering topics such as The Simulations Foundations, Introduction to Clinical Simulation, The SimLEARN Faculty Instructor Course, The SimLEARN Internist Course, and The SimLEARN's Clinical Simulation Fellowship course. Despite these challenging times, the Core Team is continuously working to improve its developments and stands ready to assist other training teams to support SimLEARN's goals of improving the quality of health care services for America's veterans.

For additional information about these courses please email us at VHASimLEARNTrainingOps@va.gov and a member of the training operations will contact you.For the rest of the story, click [here](#).[Back to top](#)U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Healthcare Simulation and Training
Office of Discovery, Education and Affiliate NetworksSimulation Exchange is a peer-reviewed publication of the VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center. The program's operations and management is conducted in close collaboration with the Office of Patient Care Services and the Office of Nursing Services. Some links go directly to pages that can only be accessed by people who are members of the VA network. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Please share this message with others. To subscribe click [here](#). For more information, visit www.simlearn.va.gov.

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