



Simulation Exchange Volume 8, Issue 5

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SIMULATION EXCHANGE



Your Source for VHA Simulation News

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Featured Training

The VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center has a variety of courses available throughout the fiscal year. Please check often for any upcoming courses on the [SimLEARN course catalog](#).

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



Simulation training, education and research expertise earns five VHA leaders top honors



An image of the VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center. (VA courtesy photo)

By Gerald Sonnenberg
EES Marketing and Communication

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Five VHA leaders have been singled out for their expertise in leadership and mentoring in the field of clinical simulation training to earn the 2016 VA Under Secretary for Health's Awards for Excellence in Clinical Simulation Training, Education and Research. This award program recognizes clinical and executive leaders in VHA's clinical simulation who have supported and advanced VHA's strategic plan for simulation.

The annual awards were established as a means of promoting and advancing system-wide progress of VHA goals, objectives and strategies for the deployment of clinical simulation to improve the quality of health care Veterans receive.

The following are the selectees and categories:

- **Joe Battle**, director of the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital and Clinics, is the recipient of the Excellence in Clinical Simulation Training, Education and Research Executive Leadership Award.
- **Steven Howard**, M.D., co-director of the VA Palo Alto Simulation Center in Palo Alto, California is the recipient of the Excellence in Clinical Simulation Training, Education and Research Practice Award.
- **Douglas Paull**, M.D., MS, FACS, FCCP, CHSE, senior medical officer/deputy director, National Center for Patient Safety, Ann Arbor, Michigan, is the recipient of the Excellence in Clinical Simulation Training, Education and Research Champion Award.
- **Sonya Dunn**, Resuscitation Education Initiative (REdI) program director and simulation center director, at the Lexington VA Medical Center (VAMC) in Kentucky, and **Reggie Horwitz**, RN-BC, MSN, AGCNS, AGPCNP-BC, NP-C, CCRN, CEN, REdI coordinator/critical care nurse educator, at the Durham VAMC in North Carolina, were both selected as the recipients of the Excellence in Clinical Simulation Training, Education and Research Champion Award for REdI.

"Since the inception of the USH Simulation Awards in 2010, we have identified and recognized VHA staff members who are national and international leaders in health care simulation," said Dr. Haru Okuda, SimLEARN national medical director. "The quality of the recipients from this year continues to ensure VA maintains its innovativeness and advantage in progressing simulation-based health care training for the clinical providers in order to improve Veteran care and contribute to the field of health care simulation."

For more information about the awards, [click here](#).

VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center featured during Healthcare Simulation Week

By Gerald Sonnenberg
EES Marketing and Communication

ORLANDO, Fla. – On Sept. 15, SimLEARN staff at the Veterans Health Administration's (VHA) National Simulation Center (NSC) hosted a Facebook live event during the first Healthcare Simulation Week Sept. 11-15. The event was organized by the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH) and was designed to generate widespread recognition of the role that simulation plays in health care education and training.

Viewers were taken on a 360-degree tour of the NSC by Dr. Haru Okuda, SimLEARN national medical director. They also saw a demonstration of how VHA is preparing clinical staff to better care for our Veterans, as well as some of the advanced technology available making this training possible.

The Facebook live broadcast can be seen [here](#) on the SSH Facebook page. Click on the video titled "VHA National Simulation Center Tour."

"This week recognizes the ongoing contributions that professionals in health care simulation make to advancing patient care," said Jennifer Manos, RN, MSN, MBA, SSH executive director. "It also raises awareness of health care simulation in communities throughout the world."

The VHA NSC provides a high-fidelity training environment by replicating actual patient treatment areas including an outpatient clinic setting, as well as an inpatient/hospital setting. More information about the NSC is available [here](#).

In the photo, Dr. Haru Okuda, SimLEARN national medical director, talks to viewers of the Facebook live, 360 degree facility tour. In his right hand is a cell phone which allowed him to answer questions or view comments in real time from the viewers. (VA photo by Ramon Garcia)



Educational Gaming products can provide effective learning opportunities

ORLANDO, Fla. – The Employee Education System's (EES) Educational Gaming provides serious educational games that use commercial, game-based mechanics, structured play, rules, aesthetics, challenges and game thinking to immerse learners, motivate actions, solve problems and promote learning with formative and summative feedback.

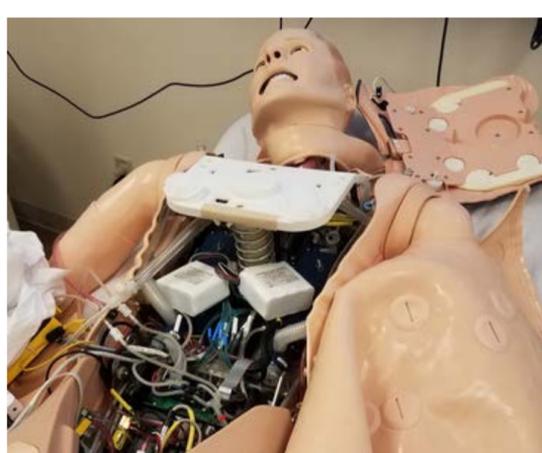
Gaming products focus on improving safety, care and service for Veterans by providing engaging and effective game-based learning opportunities.

A variety of products are available [here](#). Video previews of available products and other training scenarios are available [here](#).

STOMP training; VHA staff learn the ins and outs of mannequin technology

ORLANDO, Fla. - Mannequins used for health care simulation training can help make medical personnel even better at caring for our Veterans. Ever wonder what makes them tick? The purpose of the Simulation, Technology, Operations, Maintenance, and Practices (STOMP) course is to train Healthcare Simulation Personnel to operate simulation equipment provided through association with SimLEARN.

SimLEARN designs and delivers medical simulation curricula for use on the appropriate operation of simulation equipment in order to achieve the course objectives. This intensive, 3-day course is designed to give participants the knowledge and hands-on skills to operate, diagnose and repair deficiencies and maintain the technologically advanced health care simulation equipment required to



conduct immersive, plausible and immensely valuable medical simulation training.

More about this course and others is available [here](#).

Simulation team training proves worthwhile during real life crisis



By Jutta Novalija, M.D., Ph.D., CHSE, Anesthesiologist, Director of Milwaukee VA Simulation Program and Tina T. Smith, MS, CHSE, RN-B
Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center

MILWAUKEE – Undergoing surgery and anesthesia is much safer now, and many practicing physicians and nurses can go through their entire career without encountering a life-threatening crisis. In preparing for critical events, simulation is a powerful teaching tool to maintain or further develop skills and prepare the team to

function well when seconds count.

Malignant Hyperthermia (MH) is one of these serious events that can happen in the operating room (OR). This is a life-threatening complication if not treated immediately and managed correctly. While extremely rare, some people have a violent reaction to medications routinely administered during general anesthesia and develop extremely high body temperature, dangerously rapid heart rate and breakdown of muscle cells. To prepare for a crisis like this, the interprofessional operating room team at the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center here practices regularly with how to respond to a patient presenting MH using high-fidelity simulation. The curriculum was published, and simulation as a teaching tool is valued. But, how do you know that the team really learned from these drills?

Recently, a patient developed complications at the end of a seemingly routine procedure.

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

Next Fundamentals in Critical Care Support class coming in October

ORLANDO, Fla. – A Fundamentals in Critical Care Support (FCCS) class is coming up Oct. 31 - Nov. 2. The immersive simulation experience delves into complicated critical care situations that may be encountered frequently when caring for Veterans.

A recent class included 11 nurses and 2 pharmacists with varying degrees of intensive care experience. Dr. Patricio Bruno, associate medical director for training at SimLEARN, spearheaded the 2.5 day learning experience, along with faculty Dr. John Barwise, Dr. Donald Kowalewski, and Sherri Shepherd Ph.D., MSN, RN. Simulation technicians Ivan Rosado and Rick Harper created scenarios so credible that learners forgot the experiences weren't real.

According to one student, "The simulation experience was amazing." While another said, "What a great learning experience, I feel much more confident in caring for the critically ill Veteran."

For more information, or to register for the upcoming course, [click here](#).

In the photo, (left to right) are recent FCCS class participants: Beverly Buchanan, Renee Cortez, Kettly Darius, Debra Defreitas-Cook, Lucinda Flaherty, Brittany Fries, Teresa Geide, Latiffany Jackson, Teresa Landry, Jennifer Mcguigan, Mirian Onyebueke, Kim Port, and Angela Young. (VA photo by Ramon Garcia)



Upcoming courses at the VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center

ORLANDO, Fla. – Two upcoming courses at the VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center (NSC) still have openings.



The first is the Musculoskeletal (MSK) clinician class Oct. 11-12. This face-to-face simulation training is designed to enhance primary care providers' knowledge, skills and confidence to manage common musculoskeletal problems. In addition, this training emphasizes appropriate resource utilization and access to specialty care. To register for this class, [click here](#).

The second is an Introduction to Clinical Simulation Instructor (ICSI) course Oct. 17-19. This course provides a theoretical foundation for simulation-based training by combining didactic, small group and hands-on simulation activities. Participants can develop the skills necessary to design, develop, implement and debrief simulation-based health care training scenarios in their work centers. To register for this class, [click here](#).

Fellowship Corner: Bad jokes, good practice

By Adrienne Koch, M.Div.
and Maram Gattan, M.D.
Inter-professional Advanced Fellows in Clinical Simulation 2016-2017
Durham VA Health Care System

Durham, N.C. – A physician and a chaplain walk into a patient's room... This may sound to you like the beginning of a bad joke, but in our case, it's the beginning of good practice.

In 2012, a sociologist wrote for the Huffington Post on "Speaking Different Languages: Physicians and Chaplains in Health Care." The author "shadowed and interviewed physicians and chaplains at large academic hospitals learning how they see each other and work together." She found that "while some physicians — especially those caring for severely-ill patients and their families — work regularly with chaplains, others do not know who the chaplains are or how to contact them."

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



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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 subscribe click [here](#). For more information, visit www.simlearn.va.gov.

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