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SIMULATION EXCHANGE



Your Source for VHA Simulation News

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In This Issue:

- Limited Courses Available Through December at VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center
- Nominations Open Until Nov. 30 for Annual Under Secretary for Health's Simulation Awards Program
- Healthcare Simulation Week Held at Dayton VAMC
- Trauma Nursing Core Course Virtual Outreach Presented to 18 Veteran Integrated Service Networks
- Roseburg Conducts Clinical Institute Withdrawal Assessment
- SimLEARN Nurses Conduct Presentation at Chicago Event
- Images of Simulation Award Winners Now Available
- Applying 'Gamification' Can Make Learning More Fun

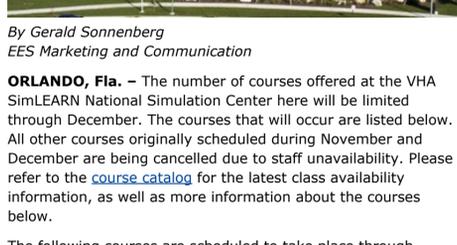
Training Catalog

The VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center has a variety of courses available throughout the 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](#).



Limited Courses Available Through December at VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center



By Gerald Sonnenberg
EES Marketing and Communication

ORLANDO, Fla. – The number of courses offered at the VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center here will be limited through December. The courses that will occur are listed below. All other courses originally scheduled during November and December are being cancelled due to staff unavailability. Please refer to the [course catalog](#) for the latest class availability information, as well as more information about the courses below.

The following courses are scheduled to take place through December:

- Trauma Nursing Core Course (TNCC) Nov. 27-29
- Introduction to Clinical Simulation (ICS) Dec. 18-20

If you have questions, please contact EES SimLEARN NSC Support EESSimLEARNNSCSupport@va.gov.

For more information about the SimLEARN program, please visit the [SimLEARN website](#).

Nominations Open Until Nov. 30 for Annual Under Secretary for Health's Simulation Awards Program



By Gerald Sonnenberg
EES Marketing and Communication

ORLANDO, Fla. – The VHA SimLEARN program recently announced a call for nominations for the 2018 Under Secretary for Health's Awards Program for Excellence in Clinical Simulation Training, Education and Research. These awards recognize executive leadership, clinical practice, simulation champions and REI champions that have significantly contributed to VHA's mission of providing outstanding clinical simulation training to the community and who have supported and

advanced VHA's strategic plan.

The VHA SimLEARN awards program includes four awards:

- The Excellence in Clinical Simulation Training, Education and Research Executive Leadership Award
- The Excellence in Clinical Simulation Training, Education and Research Practice Award
- The Excellence in Clinical Simulation Training, Education and Research Champion Award
- The Excellence in Clinical Simulation Training, Education and Research Champion Award for the Resuscitation Education Initiative (REI)

The annual awards program was established to promote and advance system-wide progress of VHA goals, objectives and strategies for the deployment of clinical simulation to improve the quality of health care for Veterans.

Please visit the [Simulation Awards](#) page on the SimLEARN website to view award criteria and how to submit the nominations. Each award requires its own specific nomination form, as well as a **Form VA0235** for submission.

Nominations will be accepted through Nov. 30.

You can also learn more about the SimLEARN program by visiting the [SimLEARN website](#), as well as available [training courses](#).

Healthcare Simulation Week Held at Dayton VAMC



By Violet Darden, MSN, AGCNS-BC
Simulation Nurse
Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center

DAYTON, Ohio -- The Dayton VA Medical Center (VAMC) simulation center celebrated Healthcare Simulation Week for the first time this fall. Healthcare Simulation Week, which runs from Sept. 17 – 21, globally celebrates professionals who use simulation to improve safety, quality and efficiency of health care delivery. During the week, simulation center staff held simulation-based learning (SBL) opportunities in the simulation center and throughout the medical

facility for staff and Veterans to promote multiple forms of health care simulation.

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

In this image, Jill Dietrich, medical center director, and Jennifer DeFrancesco, associate director at the Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) in Dayton, perform CPR on a mannequin during Healthcare Simulation Week's Open House. (VA photo by Julie Lee)

Trauma Nursing Core Course Virtual Outreach Presented to 18 Veteran Integrated Service Networks



By Susie Martenson, MS, BSN, RN-BC, CEN, CFRN, NRP, LHRM
National Clinical Faculty - Nurse
VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center

ORLANDO, Fla. – SimLEARN began offering Emergency Nursing Association (ENA) Trauma Nursing Core Course (TNCC) provider and instructor courses in 2014. This course is supported by the Office for Nursing Services (ONS) due to the strong patient assessment components reinforced with simulation. The course emphasizes a standardized, systematic approach for patient assessment of an injured patient. Provider and instructor courses are offered frequently at the VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center (NSC).

Since December 2017, each course has been offered virtually to sites within VA using ENA credentialed, SimLEARN-oriented instructors for the hands-on simulation and testing assessment in accordance with ENA and SimLEARN standards.

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

In this image, Ramon "Boty" Garcia monitors virtual transmission of the TNCC course to VA sites from the NSC in Orlando. (VA courtesy photo)

Roseburg Conducts Clinical Institute Withdrawal Assessment

By Amanda Morrow BSN, RN
Education Consultant
Roseburg VA Health Care System

ROSEBURG, Ore. – Staff in the Roseburg VA Health Care System conducted a Clinical Institute Withdrawal Assessment (CIWA) and related simulation training. CIWA is a ten-item scale used in the assessment and management of alcohol withdrawal. Each item on the scale is scored independently, and the summation of the scores yields an aggregate value that correlates to the severity of alcohol withdrawal.

During the assessment, discrepancies were identified in the nursing documentation of CIWA scores that could potentially affect the patient's level of care.

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

In this image, Eli Baker, LPN and clinical instructor, acts as a standardized patient for the CIWA simulation. He is demonstrating the symptoms of a headache and sensitive eyes. (VA photo by Amanda Morrow)



SimLEARN Nurses Conduct Presentation at Chicago Event

CHICAGO – Two members of the SimLEARN nursing team, Susie Martenson and Jane Robinson, presented at the National League of Nursing (NLN) Education Summit in Chicago Sept. 14. The title of the presentation was, "A Unique Simulation Based Education Model for Clinical Excellence in Nursing Services." This presentation summarized the Simulations for Clinical Excellence in Nursing Services (SCENS) course that was developed at SimLEARN and is offered regularly at the VHA SimLEARN National Simulation Center (NSC) in Orlando, Florida.



The SCENS course uses a simulation platform that can be used by nursing orientation and ongoing education in both clinical and non-clinical arenas. A total of 23 simulation scenarios are available at the completion of the course, with the course attendees working in teams to have exposure to nine of those scenarios during their class at the NSC. More than 100 attendees from 64 VA facilities have taken this course since it originated in 2017.

The presentation at the NLN Education Summit by the SimLEARN staff was very well received. It also included a debriefing and a demonstration of one of the scenarios, "Disruptive Patient in an Outpatient Setting." One of the comments was "Wow, you really kept everyone engaged!"

The presentation was initially submitted for consideration by Anne Meoli, Ph.D, a former SimLEARN Health Professions Education Evaluation and Research fellow.

In this image, the SimLEARN nurse presentation team of Jane Robinson (left) and Susie Martenson stand for a photograph at the National League of Nursing (NLN) Education Summit in Chicago on Sept. 14. (VA courtesy photo)

Images of Simulation Award Winners Now Available

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In October, the recipients of the 2017 VA Under Secretary for Health's Awards for Excellence in Clinical Simulation Training, Education and Research were announced. They have now received their awards, and their photographs are now available. [Click here](#) for the story and photographs.



Applying 'Gamification' Can Make Learning More Fun

By Ethan Burch, MS
Simulation Fellow
Durham VA Medical Center

DURHAM, N.C. – Gamification has been called the "ideal adult learning environment" through its use of game design and behavioral psychology (Peters, 2014). Why the buzz? In simple terms, gamification is the use of game design elements and game principles in non-game contexts.

Over the past decade gamification has been integrated into a multitude of diverse arenas, including Microsoft's call centers to incentivize successful customer resolutions, fitness applications on our phones that track and reward physical activity, and even biology classrooms where students role-play as *Jurassic Park* geneticists.

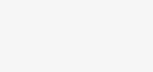
Gamification is particularly exciting due to how easily it can intersect with simulation, not unlike game-based learning activities such as escape rooms.

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



Simulation Exchange is an award-winning publication 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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