



*January 5, 2015*

## Health System Employees & Campus Faculty Convene to Learn How to Utilize Simulation as a Teaching Tool

Dawn Taylor Peterson, PhD



As interprofessional simulation programs continue to grow, so does the need for highly trained facilitators. Our SimEducator 1 and SimEducator 2 courses are designed to prepare faculty and staff to facilitate effective simulations and debriefings. All of our facilitator development courses are interprofessional, allowing us to take advantage of the experience and expertise of every discipline involved in healthcare simulation. We know that highly trained interprofessional teams provide the best care for our patients, and we believe in modeling this for our facilitators, who, in turn, will model this to our learners.

In 2014, 108 faculty and staff completed the SimEducator 1 course, and 45 faculty and staff completed the SimEducator 2 course. The Office of Interprofessional Simulation (OIPS) will expand its Facilitator Development offerings in 2015 to include Advanced Debriefing courses, Embedded Simulation Participant courses, as well as a debriefing assessment series called the

DASH® series. We will also continue to offer SimConnect, a simulation journal club meeting, every other month.

Facilitator development is key to a successful simulation program. We hope you will continue to partner with us and take advantage of our course offerings in 2015 to help maintain quality and consistency in our simulation programs across campus and throughout the health system and its affiliates.

## **Bridging the Gap Hospital Dietitians Sharpen Assessment Skills**

April Belle RN

UAB Simulation recently partnered with the Hospital Dietitians. This collaboration created an opportunity for the Hospital Registered Dietitians (RD) to sharpen their assessment skills in the Quarterback Tower Simulation Lab. During this event, the RDs rotated through several stations that offered nutrition specific assessment skills. Some of the skills included a refresher with tube feeding equipment and ostomies, skin assessment of wounds and burns, central venous catheters, and a demonstration of the complexities of an intensive care unit patient. All of these stations were designed through the lens of the RD. This simulation mimics a program offered at the School of Nursing Simulation Center that was originally created by Laura Newton for the Nutrition Science students.



In addition to the station rotations, the RDs discussed physical assessment as it relates to diet and nutrition. Rhonda Pierce and Sharon Saber are preparing their staff to become more familiar with their new IMPACT charting assessment. The collaboration between UAB Simulation and the RDs helps to bridge the gap between patient care and documentation. As part of the physical assessment exercise, two standardized patients were used as models for the RD staff to demonstrate some of their assessment techniques. In the simulation debriefing, the RD staff expressed, "This is an awesome experience! We really appreciate having two live models to practice our physical assessment." Collaboration through simulation is truly beneficial to our staff and our patients.

## **OIPS Acquires New Vimedix Ultrasound Trainer**

Wayne Skipper, MSHI

In the ongoing effort to expand the training opportunities provided to our users, The Office of Interprofessional Simulation along with The Department of Anesthesia recently acquired

a CAE Healthcare Vimedix Echo Simulator. This portable unit, consisting of a manikin torso and host computer, multiple probes, and a display monitor, simulates realistic echocardiography images in real time according to the user's manipulation of the of the probe over the manikin. The Vimedix software also includes a 3D modeled

"augmented reality" view of the anatomy, which allows the facilitator to adjust the level of viewable detail and even show and hide various organs to accommodate concise visualization according to the training session's objectives. Many cardiac and abdominal pathologies are included in the software, allowing learners to practice recognition of signs and symptoms that they may have



rarely encountered in a clinical setting. If you are interested in viewing the Vimedix's capabilities or are considering using it in upcoming teaching objective, please contact us at [simulation@uab.edu](mailto:simulation@uab.edu).

## Director's Corner

Marjorie Lee White, MD, MPPM, MA

The Office of Interprofessional Simulation (OIPS) finished the year with lots of activity in December. Operationally, our team is growing. Stay tuned for profiles of new faculty and staff who will be involved with simulation in 2015. Programmatically, we'll be focusing on increasing immersive, procedural and in-situ simulation throughout the University and the Health System. We know that, with your help, we'll continue to make progress on our mission which is: to embed simulation-based techniques and tools in education and training for the UAB community with the goal of improving both patient care outcomes and efficiency in providing care.



We want to hear from you. Please feel free to get in touch with [simulation@uab.edu](mailto:simulation@uab.edu) or with me [mlwhite@uab.edu](mailto:mlwhite@uab.edu).



For more information, please visit us on the web at <http://www.uab.edu/simulation>

## Upcoming Events

January 10-14, 2015 [2015 International Meeting for Simulation in Healthcare \(IMSH\) in New Orleans](#)  
January 27, 2015 [DASH© Series](#)  
January 29, 2015 [ESP Workshop](#)  
February 9, 2015 [SimConnect](#)  
February 24, 2015 [Advanced Debriefing Workshop](#)  
March 6, 2015 [SimEducator I](#)

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