**NETWORK NEWS — Spring 2018**

*Network News is created to keep Nova Scotia’s simulation-based health education experts and leaders up to date on what is happening in simulation education. The SimEd Network produces the newsletter, in collaboration with its key partners.*

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**Four abstracts accepted for upcoming Sim Summit**

Four abstracts, submitted by the SimEd Network, to the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada’s [Sim Summit](#), have been accepted for poster and oral presentations. Three of the four abstracts are based on the work of the SimEd Network Operations Committee and the fourth is attributed to Diane MacKenzie and her team.

1. Simulation training for Interprofessional Health Educators: A High Priority (Poster Presentation)
2. An Evaluation Framework for Determining Simulation Results (Oral Presentation)
3. Metrics for Measuring success in Simulation Education (Poster Presentation)
4. Stroke Interprofessional Collaborative Care Plan (Diane MacKenzie) (Oral Presentation)

The conference will take place in Ottawa in September 2018.

*In other research developments:*  
Dr. Iain Arsenault, a member of the Post Licensure Committee, is kicking off an Internal Medicine and Critical Care research project. The study is designed to identify if there is a need for simulation in the curriculum of Internal Medicine residents and will be conducted at the QEII Simulation Centre.

A study by Dr. Catherine Cox, Dr. Lucy Patrick and Dr. Nick Sowers entitled “Interdisciplinary Attitudes Surrounding the Perceived Value of Routine in Situ Simulation in the Emergency Department” is being conducted at the QEII.

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**New Inventory of Nova Scotia’s simulation education experts**

The SimEd Network has created a comprehensive directory of qualified simulation-based health educators, primarily those who have taken the IMS, SLIIC courses or an equivalent program. The inventory is designed to help connect one another and guide people to the right experts based on their question or need. It also demonstrates our vast and diverse expertise and how our simulation education capacity has grown over the past couple of years.

The document will be updated as our capacity and expertise grow and change.

If a qualified simulation educator is missing from this list, or information should be updated, please contact [lindsey.ackles@nshealth.ca](mailto:lindsey.ackles@nshealth.ca).

Human Resource Inventory
SLICC — SOLD OUT

The SimEd Network is pleased to host its third annual Simulation Leader Interprofessional Instructor Course (SLIIC) in June 2018. The core faculty are SimEd Network members: Dr. Stephen Miller, Dr. Vered Gazit, Dr. Kelly Lackie and Kathy Johnston.

We are sorry we could not accommodate everyone interested. If you wish to be added to the waitlist or our invite list for the 2019 course, please email: claudiahabib@eastlink.ca.

SimEd Network to host Royal College SET Course

The SimEd Network is proud to host the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Simulation Education Training (SET) Course. This is a custom designed course for health-care professionals who are currently or planning to be engaged in simulation-based education.

October 15-17, 2018 Halifax, NS —— REGISTER

What is the SimEd Network?

The SimEd Network’s mandate is to champion simulation-based learning, consolidate expertise and enable practice sharing. In essence, we are the hub of simulation education for Nova Scotia. We help connect those involved in health simulation education and ensure we are continuously learning and growing our capacity to deliver the highest quality simulation-based medical education in Nova Scotia.

We do this in partnership with:

- IWK Health Centre Simulation Program
- NSHA QEII Simulation Program
- Faculty of Health
- Faculty of Medicine

Did you know?

On average, teaching hospitals engage in simulation activities for interprofessional training more often than medical schools (67 per cent and 47 per cent respectively). AAMC survey 2011

PARTNER UPDATE

LEADERS IN SIMULATION EDUCATION

The following is a preview of some of the latest simulation education activity shared by the SimEd Network’s partners: Faculty of Health, Faculty of Medicine, NSHA QEII Simulation Programs and the IWK Simulation Program.

IWK Health Care Simulation Program

In the past year, the IWK Simulation Program provided 2,174 hours of simulation-based learning
support to 3,100 learners in 361 simulation sessions. This growth is indicative of new simulation initiatives, larger courses and expanded support for resuscitation programs. It also demonstrates the increase in simulation-based learning provided to external partners through pediatric emergency and neonatal stabilization programs.

A major highlight of this year was the collaboration between Jeff Nakhaie, IWK Simulation Specialist, and Drs. Emma Burns and Kirsten Weerdenburg to create a computerized simulation model for teaching point of care ultrasound (POCUS). Jeff created an imaging system to capture and display real-time ultrasound video on a laptop screen. This innovative trainer will be used to embed POCUS into simulation scenarios as well as skills practice.

A core piece of work has been improving interprofessional (IP) simulation for health professions staff. The Simulation Program supports several small IP planning groups to deliver intentional IP simulation for various programs. The Pediatric and Obstetrics undergraduate IP Simulation sessions incorporated this strategy from the beginning. A Resident’s Day presentation by Dr. Shannon Joice, Obstetrics PGY3, demonstrated the value of intentional planning in the undergraduate IP Obstetrical simulation sessions. Evaluations have been consistently positive for learning from, with and about other health professions. We have seen evidence of this with health professions staff and our goal is to continue to improve this aspect of simulation-based learning.

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**QEII Simulation Programs**

Simulation related educational activity within the QE2 continues to expand as recent graduates from our instructor training programs take on increasing roles in scenario design and debriefing. Volker Eichorn, the Simulation Lead within the Department of Critical Care, has recently returned from Boston after completing the IMS course on advanced debriefing skills. Volker will disseminate his newly acquired knowledge to other simulation facilitators within our simulation programs.

Jessica Mills, a Pediatric General Surgeon from the IWK who recently attended the IMS instructor’s course, has been appointed as a Clinical Lead for simulation activities within the Department of Surgery. She will partner with Cathy Delbridge (Anesthesia) and Cindy Fulmore (OR Nursing) in expanding the interprofessional OR simulation curriculum. This increasingly successful program engages learners from nursing, anesthesia, surgery and anesthesia technology in urgent point of care scenarios designed to enhance skills in crisis resource management and collaboration among OR staff.

The Simulation Bay within the Halifax Infirmary Emergency Department has been temporarily relocated to the second floor while the former ambulance bay is being renovated to accommodate a state-of-the-art simulation resource. This new facility is scheduled to be completed in September and will accommodate interprofessional simulation activities from all clinical programs within the QE2 including use of clinical grade cadavers for realistic skills training.

Simulation activity at the VG site has been facilitated following recent renovations to the Simulation Center in the Centennial wing that includes learners from simulation programs in Postgraduate Nursing, Internal Medicine, Anesthesia and Critical Care.

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**FACULTY OF HEALTH**

**Stroke IPE Research Study**

The team of researchers is a diverse group of individuals who have developed an innovative and complex interprofessional learning opportunity. The *Stroke Interprofessional Collaborative Care Plan* learning event has been offered since 2008. This past year, it was extended to include two interprofessional simulated patient encounters at an IPE Stroke Clinic. This research has grabbed national attention, where its preliminary findings were delivered at three conferences and its work has nabbed two awards: SIM-ONE 2017 SIM Innovator Award (Region 4) and the Dalhousie University Faculty of Health William Webster Excellence in Interprofessional Education Award (2017).

Over the past two years (2016 & 2017), 800 students from six different health disciplines (occupation therapy, physical therapy, pharmacy, medicine, nursing and speech language pathology have participated the Stroke IPE Team Meeting and Simulated Patient Clinic simulations.
Other Occupational Therapy Highlights:
- OCCU 6001 held the first simulated examination at C3LR
- Collaborated with the C3LR on final OSCEs for entry-level Occupational Therapy courses
- Published: “Co-constructing Simulations with Learners: Roles, Responsibilities and Impact” *The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy*, Vol. 6, Issue. 1 Diane E. MacKenzie, PhD, OT, Reg(NS), OTR; Kathleen E. Collins, MSc(OT); Mylene J. Guimond, MSc(OT); Abby C. Hunter, MSc(OT); Kassia J. Jurcina, MSc(OT); Johanna L. McDonald, MSc(OT); Nikki L. Richards, MSc(OT); Stephanie H. Sinclair, MSc(OT); Kelsey Y. Taylor, MSc(OT)
- Karen Joudrey and colleagues ran the first phone-in simulation at the C3LR as part of a disability management course offering.

**FACULTY OF HEALTH**
**Physiotherapy Decision Making in a Simulated ICU setting**

On April 16, the School of Physiotherapy conducted a pre-placement session for Year 1 students on ‘Physiotherapy Decision Making in a Simulated ICU (Intensive Care Unit) Setting’. The initiative was introduced by Daphne Pereira and was conducted at the Clinical Learning and Simulation Center using high fidelity manikins. The aim of the session was to familiarize students to a critical care environment, engage in ongoing patient monitoring and interpreting physiologic parameters, practice safe “patient” mobilization skills while observing all precautions associated with lines, leads, tubes and respond appropriately to alarms.

This session was the result of a collaborative effort between the following partners:
- Daphne Pereira, Physiotherapy Clinical Coordinator
- Kim Hebert, Coordinator at Clinical Learning and Simulation Center, School of Nursing
- Carol Ritchie, Instructor, Coordinator Clinical Learning and Simulation Center, School of Nursing
- Lauren Singh, Physiotherapy Clinician, QEII Halifax Infirmary, NSHA
- Michelle O’Brien, Physiotherapy Clinician, Dartmouth General Hospital, NSHA
- Monica MacDonald, Physiotherapy Clinician

**FACULTY OF HEALTH**
**Clinical integration courses part of modified curriculum**

Clinical learning, a cornerstone of the School of Nursing’s new modified curriculum, is supported in every semester through clinical integration (CI) courses. In these CI courses, practical application of the concepts taught throughout the semester are strengthened through both simulation opportunities and clinical experience. Students are provided opportunity to learn and practice clinical competencies in a safe simulated environment. Hands-on skills and more complex competencies such as communication, organization, and teamwork are reinforced through creative and novel simulated learning experiences using high and low fidelity mannequins as well as simulated patients. For example, students experience a simulated death in each semester, progressing from an expected death of an elderly patient early in the program to an unexpected cardiac arrest later in their program. This year, for the very first time, students had the opportunity to conduct a breastfeeding assessment on an actual mother and her infant in a simulated setting, allowing every student the opportunity to observe a “live” infant latch and breastfeed.

Some simulated learning experiences take place throughout multiple semesters, with the acuity of cases increasing as students’ knowledge, skills, and abilities increase. One such simulation, situated in a rural outpatients’ Department, is replicated in two different semesters, which expose students to the variety of patient-family encounters they will experience when working within this dynamic setting. Students encounter a maternity patient and same-sex partner, a pediatric patient and parent, an adult
with chest pain, and an intoxicated homeless adult with a head injury. Outcomes are focused on safety, teamwork, communication, and procedural skills.

Simulation is a valuable learning tool within the School of Nursing’s modified curriculum and provides the foundation for safe clinical practice.