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SIMULATION EXCHANGE

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Your Source for VHA Simulation News

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SimLEARN Virtual Academy (SVA) leverages innovation and technology to advance simulation education through synchronous and asynchronous modalities.

Learn about available courses, click here. For more information, visit www.simlearn.va.gov.



Director's Corner: Changes at SimLEARN



By: Eric Bruns, MBA, Executive Director, VHA SimLEARN

Orlando, Fla. - Since our founding in 2009, SimLEARN has been an acronym for Simulation "Learning, Education and Research Network." As we continue to grow and adapt under the DEAN's Office of Healthcare Innovation and Learning (OHIL), we want our name, mission, and vision to reflect all that we do here at SimLEARN.

For the rest of the story, click here.

Photography provided by SimLEARN

Virtual Conferences are a Click Away

By: VHA SimLEARN Staff, VHA SimLEARN, Orlando, Florida

Orlando, Fla. - The 2021 International Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare (IMSH) was held virtually this year with opportunities to access the educational presentations, once registered, until December 31, 2021. The conference theme of IMSH Delivers: Bringing Learning to Life offered live virtual presentations, pre-recorded sessions, research-based activities, simulation demonstrations, and other offerings.

For the rest of the story, click here.

Virtual Simulation Helps Grow Telestroke During COVID Operations



By: David J. Adriansen, Ed.D, NREMT, CHSE, NTSP Director of Simulation | VA National Telestroke Program, Office of Connected Care, Palo Alto VA Health Care System

Jane A. Anderson, Ph.D., RN, FNP-C, FAANP, NTSP Chief Nursing Officer and Chief of Implementation Services | VA National Telestroke Program, Office of Connected Care, Palo Alto VA Health Care System

ICU MD conducted stroke assessment as guided by Telestroke Neurologist at Leavenworth VA. (L-R) William Burton, Standardized Patient and James Hignight, MD. VA Staff Photograph by Joseph Banks.

Palo Alto, Calif. - The VA National Telestroke Program (NTSP) serves Veterans with acute stroke symptoms at VA emergency departments, urgent care centers, and hospitals. Each year, the VHA reports approximately 4,500 Veterans are diagnosed with an acute ischemic stroke (AIS). According to the American Stroke Association, stroke is the 5th leading cause of death in the United States and a leading cause of serious long-term disability.

When a Veteran with acute stroke symptoms presents at a participating VA facility, front-line staff use a mobile device to videoconference with the Telestroke Neurologist. The neurologist examines the patient, reviews the medical record and CT images, advises the local treating physician as to a diagnosis and recommended treatment, and documents recommendations in the patient record.

Once official travel was minimized in March 2020 due to the pandemic, the NTSP Implementation Team had to transition to virtual training. After four months of adapting curriculum and processes, the NTSP was able to conduct its first Go-Live Course in August 2020 at the Albuquerque VA via livestreaming coaching and educational presentations.

For the rest of the story, click here.

Simulation and the South Texas Ice Storm of 2021

By: Debra A. Bartoshevich, MSN, RN, CHSE, CEN, Simulation Program Director | Audie L. Murphy VA Hospital San Antonio, Texas

San Antonio, Texas - We South Texans don't do cold well and so when the ice storm of February 2021 arrived, we weren't prepared for single-digit temperatures, icy roads, and a grid that lost power for 96 hours.

Christopher Sandles, the Director of South Texas Veterans Health Care System (STVHCS) declared weather leave for many of us who lost power, heat, electricity, and water at our homes, not to mention impassable ice-covered roads.

Three days later, when the South Texas Veterans Health Care System Simulation Team arrived back to work, they were welcomed by water damage to their simulation center, equipment, and administrative offices.

For the rest of the story, click here.

Photography provided by Sui Unzelman, DNP, RN, VHA-CM



Fellowship Corner: Virtual and In-person Role Play Simulation on Medication Errors



By: Charlotte Pham, DO, Advanced Clinical Simulation Fellow | Durham, North Carolina

Jason Chandrapal, MD, Advanced Clinical Simulation Fellow | Durham, North Carolina

Durham, N.C. - A medication error is any preventable event that may cause or lead to inappropriate medication use or patient harm. Such events may be related to prescribing, order communication, product labeling, packaging, nomenclature, compounding, dispensing, distribution, administration, education, monitoring, and use.

die annually due to a medication error, and hundreds of thousands experience adverse reactions or other medical complications. These mistakes also represent a significant financial burden, with the estimated total cost of looking after patients with medication-associated errors exceeding \$40 billion each year (Tariq et al., 2021).

In addition to direct patient harm and financial burden, medication errors have a steep psychological cost that can be far wider-reaching. As a facilitator, Jason recounts, "From my personal experience as an intern on a busy surgical service, I forgot to restart a patient's anticoagulation following surgery, and they subsequently developed a blood clot. I felt terrible and disappointed because I felt that the patient trusted me, and I broke that trust. It is a memory that we still vividly remember many years later and fortunately turned it into an opportunity for growth and improvement."

For the rest of the story, click here.

New Concept, New Centers

By: Jonathan Borgwing, EdD, Associate Director for Training | VHA SimLEARN

Orlando, Fla. - The SimLEARN Innovation Center for Education (SLICE) is proud to announce the following sites have become cells:

- Cleveland, OH
Minneapolis, MN
Pittsburgh, PA
Oklahoma City, OK
Orlando, FL
Las Vegas, NV
Harbor, NY
Cincinnati, OH
Togus, ME
Wilmington, DE



SLICE Cells are facilities that have partnered with SimLEARN to bring cutting edge Simulation Curriculum and resources to their facilities. Currently we are rolling out OORAM 2.0 (Out of Operating Room Airway Management), an updated and revised OORAM course.

Read more about SLICE Centers at the SimLEARN website: https://www.simlearn.va.gov/SIMLEARN/Training_Operations_Home_Page.asp

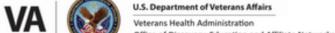
SimLEARN Certified Simulation Centers

By: VHA SimLEARN Staff, VHA SimLEARN, Orlando, Florida

Orlando, Fla. - SimLEARN is excited to announce the continuation of certification for Veterans Health Administration (VHA) simulation centers. The goal for national certification is to continue a structured program that supports improved local delivery of simulation-based training, augments access to developed instructional curricula, and increases continuity across the VHA.

For the list of the newest SimLEARN Certified Simulation Centers, click here.

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