A look back...

as we move forward

UW Health Clinical Simulation Program Update
To offer a world-class simulation program that promotes sharing of clinical knowledge and skills across disciplines and practitioner populations, to improve the quality and safety of patient care in Wisconsin and beyond.
At UW Health, simulation is transforming the way we deliver health care. Our approach involves the entire health care community whether it is decision making and communication within operating room and emergency department teams; the manner in which environmental services personnel interact with patients and families; or opportunities to practice and improve doctor-patient communication. We strongly believe that simulation can impact care on many levels.

Implementation of clinical simulation is becoming synonymous with continuous practice improvement. We are proud of the ever increasing number of simulations being enacted by various departments to improve the patient care experience. As we embark on a new era of health care, UW Health leadership and providers are discovering what a powerful asset simulation is for contributing to the safety and quality initiatives of the institution.

A strong simulation program embodies the Wisconsin Idea. We proudly note that since our opening in November 2011, more than 225 providers from around the state and beyond have attended CME courses, programs, workshops and training developed by UW Health clinicians and hosted by the UW Health Clinical Simulation Program. We are leading the way and giving back to the health care community at large. This is our commitment. This is our purpose.

Carla Pugh, MD, PhD
Clinical Director
UW Health Simulation Program

George Keeler, MA, MBA
Administrative Director
UW Health Simulation Program
The old model of ‘see one, do one, teach one’ isn’t adequate in this day and age. Simulation allows health professionals to acquire mastery of their skill sets before they enter the care delivery environment.”

— Ron Sliwinski
Chief Operating Officer,
UW Hospital and Clinics

Providing the highest quality health care in the safest environments is a cultural standard. UW Health continues to strive for throughout its facilities. We’re supporting these ongoing efforts by hosting a number of courses ranging from safe patient handling to liver transplant, and developing a standardized curriculum for the new Central Line Insertion hospital initiative, which will serve more than 100 clinicians in its first year.

In addition to offering a variety of clinical-based courses, non-clinical users continue to participate in many quality and safety efforts. The Environmental Services team conducts mock patient discharge sessions to ensure that patient rooms are properly cleaned and sanitized, demonstrating the incalculable value our simulation services provide to the breadth of disciplines and areas across UW Health and most importantly, to patients and the community.
As health care professionals continue to grow in their careers, so does the need for continuing education and professional development. The Clinical Simulation Program serves as a destination for these essentials—to residents, medical students, nurses, physicians, emergency and critical care personnel—as well as to others within and outside the UW Health system.

While our current course offerings cover competency and offer certifications, we are striving to create new customized courses incorporating team skills, communication and leadership that take our learners into the realm of “mastery.”

To date, the Clinical Simulation Program has facilitated the following offerings:

• Midwest Human Patient Simulation Network (HPSN) Conference
• Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Conference
• Phacoemulsification for Cataract Surgery (Phaco)
• Continuum of Medical Education Conference
• Regional Airway Management Conferences
• Advanced Trauma and Life Support (ATLS)
• Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) Plus
• Maintenance of Certification in Anesthesia (MOCA) courses

“As an adult learner, I’ve learned more from my mistakes than my successes. And, I’d prefer those errors be on a plastic simulator than another human.”

— Joshua Ross, MD, Emergency Medicine
The research I’m doing aims to improve models used for certain procedures that are difficult to teach. Simulators are making this research possible and improving the learning experience."

— Georgia R. Ditzenberger, NNP-BC, PhD
Department of Pediatrics, Specialty in Neonatology

The Clinical Simulation Program embraces The Wisconsin Idea—improving people’s lives beyond the classroom—by encouraging new ways of using our facility, capabilities and simulators.

In 2012, the Clinical Simulation Program hosted industry product and logistics trials by Design Concepts and Nursing Informatics as well as students from our School of Biomedical Engineering testing new equipment.

Our team also assisted in the development of new simulation models and techniques by repurposing simulator tissues. These tissues were used to create abscess incision and drainage (I&D) as well as suturing, central lines and lipoma models.

Additional research projects utilizing simulation include but are not limited to:

• “Validation of Sensorized Breast Models for High Stakes Clinical Skills Assessment”
• “The Effect of Skills Decay on Task Completion”
• Development of an innovative, virtual-reality carpal tunnel simulator being used in a comparative research study involving surgery residents
• Improving patient and practitioner safety and quality of care through evaluation of technologies at the bedside
• Improving models for teaching certain procedures that require high-tech intervention in the neonatal environment
• “Adapting American Heart Association PALS Algorithms to High Fidelity Simulation”
This simulation program allows students to learn from their mistakes in a setting in which it is safe to do so, before moving into the precious arena of real patient care."

— Robert Golden, MD
Dean, UW School of Medicine and Public Health

While many courses are offered to provide CME, CEU and continuing professional development credit, several of our courses are designed specifically for those participating in fellowship, residency and even medical school programs. These courses focus more on the core curriculum and skill sets required to obtain professional titles. Airway management, basic suturing and other workshops offer our learners a chance to practice clinical skills using realistic equipment while their educational and professional careers are still in infancy. The simulation experience allows these learners to acquire critical skills, and more importantly, perform them in a safe environment where mistakes are expected and crucial to the development process.

Student groups include but are not limited to:
- Nursing
- Medical
- Pharmacy
- Physical Therapy
It is critical that a shared inter-professional vision and educational framework are woven into our culture, in order to foster the collaboration that’s necessary for delivering high-quality patient care."

— Michele Glynn, MSN, RN-BC
Director, Education and Development, UW Hospital and Clinics Nursing and Patient Care Services

Inter-professional (IP) simulation is a goal and challenge for most simulation programs. Besides the challenge of developing sound IP simulation scenarios that benefit various groups, the greater hurdle may be scheduling numerous learners to participate simultaneously, given their busy clinical schedules. However, achieving IP simulation remains a priority for our program.

Our plan is to continue to develop continuing professional development scenarios and then introduce other clinical disciplines into those scenarios. To date, we have conducted IP training with UW Med Flight and Emergency Medicine along with the Children’s Hospital Emergency Transport Ambulance (CHETA) and Pediatric Emergency Medicine. These trainings included physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists and paramedics.

As we continue to grow and evolve, our aim is to develop greater use of simulation with inter-professional health care teams. These simulations will address the needs of improved communication, crisis management, teamwork and leadership required in this new era of health care.

It is our goal to be at the forefront of innovation in health care simulation learning and research—serving the needs of the health care community and furthering the effective use of simulation in transforming health care education—to help improve patient care experiences in Wisconsin and beyond.
The Clinical Simulation Program takes great interest in community involvement as well as cultivating enthusiasm in becoming a future health care professional. In 2012, we had an opportunity to host visitors from near and far, including three Ethiopian health care professionals who are part of a project to improve emergency services in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, led by UW Health vascular surgeon, Dr. Girma Tefera.

In addition, more than 300 candidate and interest group tours have taken place, as well as visits from Girl and Boy Scout troops, Doris Duke Surgery interns, READY Campers (Responding to Emergencies and Disaster with Youth), Camp Badger participants and high school interest groups. These interactions with surgical trainers, high-fidelity manikins and virtual-reality simulators resulted in more than 30 community hands-on experiences for 593 youths and 287 adults.

“The ability to bring different groups of all ages into our simulation facility is extremely rewarding. Visitors often walk away with an experience and information they never knew existed. I’m certain that we’ve impacted a number of youth who will now consider a career in health care because of their experience here.”

—George Keeler, MA, MBA
Administrative Director,
Clinical Simulation Program
Friends of the UW Health Clinical Simulation Program

"I became a Friend of the Simulation Program through my involvement with READY Camp participants. The teens receive such an outstanding educational experience, learning about medical concepts and health care careers. You can see future doctors emerging."

—Mary Jean Erschen-Cooke, RN, BNS
Executive Director, Center for School, Youth and Citizen Preparedness

In 2012, the UW Health Clinical Simulation Program introduced a new way for interested parties to get involved. To become a “Friend of the UW Health Clinical Simulation Program,” a charitable contribution can be made to the program in exchange for the opportunity to participate in simulations, receive a regular simulation newsletter, and receive program updates and current events in health care simulation. Friends of the program are also invited to participate in our youth hands-on experiences as tour group leaders.

For more information on the Friends Program, please visit our website at med.wisc.edu/simulation or call our office at (608) 265-1047.
Creating guided learning conditions that simulate real-life health care situations.