Fiscal year 2019 brought about new, innovative ways for the UW Health Clinical Simulation Program to improve patient care. We have extended our reach throughout the University of Wisconsin, the region and internationally. This year resulted in several achievements for our program, including the formation of new global partnerships, development of two simulators, receiving $29,000 in grant awards*, contributing to peer-reviewed publications, and creating new curricula. Our passionate team continues to spearhead efforts within the strategic domains of team improvement, continuing professional development, and research and development, reaffirming our commitment to support patient- and family-centered healthcare through improvements to safety, quality and outcomes.

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The future of simulation-based education is what we are making it. 

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– Joshua Herman, MD, FACS, Assistant Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, UW School of Medicine and Public Health

Our program continues to actively pursue new ways to transform healthcare by developing the level of training for current and future healthcare workers. This includes training in new healthcare models, with a focus on enhancing teamwork through interprofessional education, improved processes and real-time quality advancements. To improve teamwork, collaboration, shared mental models and patient-centered care, we successfully brought together healthcare professionals from a variety of areas to interpret and react to realistic surgical operations, pause for learning opportunities and practice high-fidelity low-frequency events. Providing this level of training contributes to improved patient safety and outcomes. In addition, the innovative methodology associated with the KindHeart™ simulator advances research around competency-based assessment. 

“ Simulation is clearly a critical tool in the conduct of teamwork training.”
– David Gaba, Professor of Anesthesiology, Perioperative and Pain Medicine, Stanford University

As an international leader in the field of distinctive simulation programs, we continue our pursuit of excellence in groundbreaking research and development. Our accreditations through the American College of Surgeons as an Accredited Education Institute (ACSI AEI) and the endorsement from the American Society of Anesthesiologists as a Simulation Education Network (SEN), reaffirm the value of our prestigious program and also provide us with contemporary interprofessional research endeavors. This includes offering courses such as Advanced Trauma Life Support for surgeons, emergency medicine physicians and family medicine physicians. The goal is to improve trauma patient outcomes, reduce costs and care of adult and pediatric trauma patients by providing best practices, simulation-based education using actors wearing simulated wounds and makeup to represent a variety of trauma injuries and scenarios. 

“Curiosity is one of the permanent and certain characteristics of a vigorous intellect.”
– Samuel Johnson, Literary Critic and Biographer

This year, we partnered with the UW-Madison Schools of Pharmacy and Nursing and the UW School of Medicine and Public Health to develop a three-year longitudinal interprofessional education curriculum for prelicensure students. During 72 hours of high-level, simulation-based education, 330 learners participated and delivered with 36 expert facilitators representing the Schools on teamwork, communication, collaboration and shared mental models. In addition, novel curricula development included interprofessional training for central vascular line insertions, model codes, trauma and operating room scenarios.

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In the spirit of innovation, we continuously seek partnerships with other forward-thinking leaders. This year, we partnered with cardiovascular surgery to implement the innovative KindHeart™ cardiac surgical simulator. This interactive simulator incorporates vital signs, invasive hemodynamic monitoring and echocardiographic information, allowing learners to work with realistic tissue (porcine heart), actual operating room instruments, sutures, cardiopulmonary bypass tubing and cannulae. This type of high-level training allows a group of interprofessional learners to interpret and react to realistic surgical operations, pause for learning opportunities and practice high-acuity, low-frequency events.

As an international leader in the field of simulation-based education, we continue our pursuit to represent a variety of trauma and burn clinicians, experiences for conference participants. As our program continues to grow, we also focus on our own simulation staff development. This year, our team’s growth and success was demonstrated in several ways. Each staff member contributed to journal publications presented at either regional or national conferences, as well as authored posters, hosted workshops and contributed to journal publications and book chapters.

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During an interprofessional simulation, team members practice their procedural and communication skills when simulating Extracorporeal Circulation Oxygenation (ECMO) for a patient.

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To improve teamwork, collaboration, shared mental models and patient-centered care, we successfully brought together healthcare professionals from a variety of areas, with the common goal of improving UW Health patient outcomes when Extracorporeal Circulation Oxygenation (ECMO) is initiated for a patient. The aim of this simulation was to test the activation protocol and cannulation process that was recently implemented in the UW Health Barrie Walsh Emergency Department.

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The innovative trauma team is backed by a wealth of research and education, providing a valuable experience for conference participants. Partnering with the Adult and Pediatric Trauma Program to offer this novel course helped support their endeavors to achieve reverification as a Level One Trauma Center, making us 1 of 12 in the nation with Level One Adult, Pediatric and Burn Center Verification.

Continuing Professional Development

75% of all simulation events support continuing professional development.

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We are driven by a vision to offer a world-class simulation program that promotes experiential learning across healthcare disciplines to improve the quality and safety of patient care in Wisconsin and beyond.

Executive Board

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President and Chief Nursing Executive, UW Health

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Board Chair; Associate Dean for Academic Affairs; Faculty, UW Program in Medicine and Public Health

Bob Pannewa, CPA
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, UW Health

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Interim Dean, Department of Anesthesiology; Faculty, UW School of Medicine and Public Health

Glenn Weil, MD
Chair, Department of Pediatrics; Pediatrician-in-Chief, American Family Children’s Hospital; Faculty, UW School of Medicine and Public Health

Clinical Simulation Program Faculty and Staff

KrysteCampbell, MSMS, CHSE
Director of Operations

Ryan Thompson MD, FACP
Medical Director

Mark Johnston, BA, CHSOS
Simulation Specialist

Mary Kate O’Leary, BS
Simulation Coordinator

Gina Proyezniak, MSMS, CHSE
Simulation Educator

Gita Tonea, RN, LGN
Simulation Educator

Simulation Interns

Nate Bickel
Maya Chael
Sayan Guha
Megan Tarr
Kenton Wu

Jonathan Mecich, MD
Interim Chair, Department of Anesthesiology; Faculty, UW School of Medicine and Public Health

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Olivier Mikatchi, MD
Medical Director, Clinical Simulation Program

Erick Przybylski, MSMS, CHSE
Simulation Educator

Gina Tranel, RN, BSN
Simulation Educator

Simulation Interns

Sara Busche
Maya Chael
Sayan Guha
Megan Tarr
Kenton Wu

Executive Board

7,000 learner encounters
4,310 hours of simulation-based training and education
1,375 simulation events