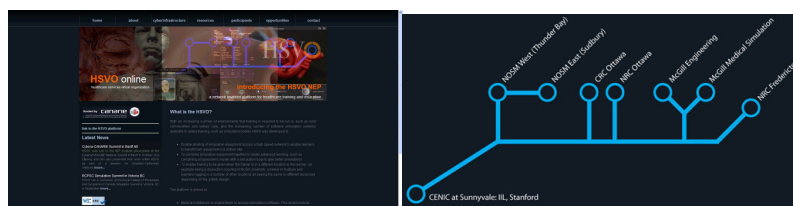


Clinical Simulation News

Distributed Learning* for UCC Medical Students through the Health Services Virtual Organisation (HSVO)

**Distributed learning - an instructional model that involves using various information technologies to help students learn*
http://www.library.cornell.edu/DL/tutorial/tut_2.htm

The HSVO is a “network enabled platform for healthcare training and education”. This platform provides a number of integrated simulation experiences through “edge devices” such as Virtual Patient (VP) cases via Open Labyrinth (OL), Mannequin Simulators such as the Laerdal 3G SimMan linked to a hypovolaemic physiological model, 3D interactive Anatomical images through Volume Segmentation and a cadaveric dissection model. The network, shown below, currently involves Canadian institutions such as University of Ottawa (U of O), McGill, North Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) and Stanford University in the US.



In a collaboration created by Prof George Shorten, Dept of Surgery and co-ordinated by Dr Aislinn Joy, School of Medicine, eight UCC medical students have participated in five distributed learning sessions in the form of “Sim Challenges” since April 2010. These students, going by the team name of “GCS 16” (Tony Lynch, Seamus Boyle, Stephen Power, Laura Linehan, Antoinette O’Connor, John McNamara, Jean Kerins and Shane O’Donovan) have impressed those from the HSVO network with their professionalism, enthusiasm and knowledge. Technical support was provided by Uwe Schiler, and Drs Siun O’Flynn and Oonagh Hickey helped facilitate sessions.

“GCS 16” began by collaborating with U of O students while working through the Open Labyrinth Virtual Patient cases via video conferencing. This also involved integrating use of video footage from Haiti with the VP case to situate the teams in a major disaster area at the third session. The fourth challenge, shown below, involved the Cork team leading the McGill team in Montreal through a scenario at the McGill Simulation Centre mannequin. Expert guidance was provided by Dr Kevin La Chapelle from McGill.

UCC students team leading



McGill students – the team



The most recent four centre challenge involving a simulated crevasse rescue/retrieval with Cork as Trauma Centre proved to be a very exciting educational experience. The Cork “trauma team” provided advice remotely and collaborated with an Arctic Research Base (NOSM), an expert trauma surgeon at McGill and a flight dispatch centre(U of O). This latest challenge used all the devices (outlined above) on the platform as well as video conferencing for a live suturing tutorial from McGill. These HSVO challenges have been very successful from both a social and experiential learning point of view. UCC students are hoping the opportunity will continue!