

Translational Simulation Collaborative Newsletter January 2025

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Uncle John welcomes us
to Country



Hege Ersdal from Norway



Siren Rittedal from Norway

Images from Simulation Reconnect



Yvonne Ng from Woodlands Health, Singapore



Andrea Austin from San Diego USA



Ben Symon from Mater Simulation and Simulcast



Jesse Spurr from Metro North and Simulcast

Images from Simulation Reconnect



Guilia Roiter & Soraya Gonano from Bond University

Simulation Reconnect 2024

By: Dr Ruth-Ellen Marks

The third annual Simulation Reconnect event at was held recently at Bond University on the Gold Coast, involving over 100 participants with a wide range of educational interests and from diverse medical, nursing, allied health, and administration professional backgrounds. Simulation in healthcare was the common passion that brought us all together for day of listening, learning and networking together. Here is a summary of the presentations from the Simulation Reconnect day, which was sponsored by Bond University and Laerdal:



Simulations Save Lives: Safer Births Bundle of Care and Data-Driven Newborn Resuscitation

Hege Ersdal and Siren Rettedal shared the progress of the Safer Births initiative, which consists of “innovative clinical and training tools for improved labour care and newborn resuscitation, integrated with new strategies for continuous quality improvement.”¹ Their goal is a 50% reduction in newborn deaths within the first 24 hours of life and a 10% reduction in maternal deaths in the region of Tanzania in which they are working. Their process involves iterative, locally informed simulation training with data-driven improvements. Read more about safer births [here](#).

Dr Ersdal described how an initial one-day simulation training pilot in 2009 became weekly in-situ educational sessions after staff requested more frequent training with buy-in and participation by their leaders. The researchers noticed a strong correlation between how often they ran team simulations and maternal survival: more simulations led to better survival rates. The initial 2009 pilot grew into a project across 30 Tanzanian hospitals and was a recent awardee of \$4.5 million under the World Bank’s Innovation-to-Scale Global Financing Facility which will enable them to reach more hospitals, mothers, and babies.

Dr Rettedal and her team in Norway have developed an automated system for passive data capture and storage synchronised in time using electronic medical records, aiming to bridge the gap between work as done and work as imagined. Her focus is data-guided debriefs informing decisions about staff neonatal resuscitation training and communication with families of newborns who have undergone resuscitation. She shared the system they have developed, which involves videorecording and heatmapping technology, and debriefing using the data captured with these tools.

Key learning points were that parents want to participate in this research, particularly when errors are made. Learning and improving is vital, and how leaders respond to failure matters. It takes good systems to save lives. [This paper describes her research in more detail.](#)

Sim for Moving In: Singapore’s Newest Hospital

Yvonne Ng, Dr Daniel Seng and Dr Pipetius Quah gave an enthusiastic presentation about the inception and planning of and planning of Woodlands Health, the first hospital in Singapore to be planned while its staff were still working at other campuses: Under the slogan, ‘prepare unite excite’, they engaged their large new team of staff to co-create and co-own the homecoming experience together.

Simulation featured in the translation of their mission and vision into action, through tabletop exercises, drills and full-scale simulations in situ in the areas that were about to be used. This ranged from simulating outpatient clinic workflow and patient encounters to operating theatre simulations. They defined the problems clearly and mapped out workable solutions, discovering on the way that a lot of the simulation objectives turned out to be about connecting people and improving communications. Their take home message was to ask what problems are amenable to simulation as part of the solution and how it can be used to bring people together.

Other speakers on the day also brought inspiring and educational messages to Sim Reconnect

[Dr Andrea Austin](#) shared her own personal journey through naval trauma training in the United States of America. She emphasised that simulation can help to solve the big problems we are facing in healthcare partly by leveraging technology and educational best practices to improve clinical skills, but it works primarily by improving relationships. [Here is the link to her new book](#) which takes the reader on a “transformative journey from the frontline of medicine to the heartline of healing.”

[Jesse Spurr](#) from Retrieval Services Queensland unpacked the exciting opportunities for Visually Enhanced Mental Simulation (VEMS) in delivering critical care education sustainably to rural and remote communities. Feedback he received was that having a ‘basic’ paper-based patient allowed participants to concentrate on the discussions and interactions with colleagues. [One of the Simulcast Self-Development Modules explores VEMS as part of the suite of scenario design tips.](#)

[Dr Ben Symon](#) recounted the process of using simulation enabled design in improving his local Massive Transfusion Protocol algorithm and transforming it into a user-friendly, simulation-informed tool that his colleagues could effectively use. He and his team used simulation to understand the current departmental challenges related to massive transfusion, improve the algorithm and then embed the new protocol through simulation-based education.

Soraya Gonano and Giulia Roiter from the simulated participant educator team at Bond University demonstrated the value of moulage in adding value authentically and sustainably to simulations. They shared photos and models of some of their innovations including chronic wounds, skin lesion tattoos and how it all comes together to portray a patient authentically in simulation scenarios. [Here is a link to the Bond University Moulage Resource Book.](#)

Dr Shelley Walker described her current research paper on nurses as embedded participants, and how they see their role complexity and tensions. She recently presented this paper at the Society for Simulation in Europe (SESAM) 2024 conference, winning an award for best short presentation. Her work was grounded in a recent paper on harmonising professional identities for clinical simulation educators.²

[Nathan Oliver](#) challenged all the event participants to grow and mature as debrief facilitators, using ‘meta-debriefing’. Meta-debriefing conversations enable debriefers to “review and critically reflect upon their own or others’ debriefing practices.”³ It is important for these to be context dependent, formative in function (rather than summative assessments), theoretically driven by the extensive important research underpinning best practice, and psychologically safe for all participants.

Take Home Messages

For me the theme of the Simulation Reconnect day was about culture and community. I thought the presenters showcased beautifully the power of simulation to promote positive workplace relationships and culture that have real world value in enhancing patient safety and providing good clinical care. The variety of projects and research different people are working on is exciting, and there was something for everyone’s educational interest and expertise to mull over and learn from.

My own area of current interest is in simulation education for undergraduate medical students and particularly the role and engagement of simulated participants in our simulation education. There were plenty of lessons for me to take away from the reconnect day, from considering tools such as VEMS and metacognition in my own teaching and practice to being inspired by some of the clinical applications of simulation work that I might use in my practice going forward.

Dr Ruth-Ellen Marks is an educator in the Bond University medical program working primarily in simulation She practices part time as a emergency physician. She enjoys wildlife photography, taking her Aussie shepherd to the dog beach and traveling with her husband and toddler.

Reading....

Deadly gender gap in CPR training

Rebecca Szabo, Jess Stokes-Parish and team found that found that 95% of CPR training manikins on the global market did not have breasts and are flat-chested, and this has implications for the likelihood CPR is initiated for women.

More than a feeling

Vicki LeBlanc, with Glenn Posner and Victoria Brazil write about emotional regulation strategies for simulation-based education in Advances in Simulation

Hijacking telehealth technology to deliver tele-simulation

Alicia Godman and team from Mater Simulation find many tangible and unanticipated benefits of using existing systems to leverage simulation capacity

Breaking down barriers

Our colleagues at Gandel Simulation Service, led by Kara Allen explored the benefits and unintended consequences to removing a wall between midwives and doctors desks in a birth suite.,

Comprehensive Healthcare Simulation: Geriatric Simulation

In this book Nemat Alsaba and team provide essential information about working with older adult SPs to deliver effective and authentic education, including practical tools to help readers implement concepts and strategies

Introduction to Working as a Simulated Participant

A short course for those wishing to begin work as a simulated participant.

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Listening

Simulcast Journal Club December 2024

Simulating ICU transports to determine lift sizes. Meta-debriefing, clinical debriefing in operating theatres, and supporting psychological safety. Another great episode on Simulcast journal club to close out 2024

IPSS: The Podcast.

A new podcast from the world of pediatric simulation in healthcare. Brought to you by the International Pediatric Simulation Society (IPSS), this podcast is dedicated to exploring the latest advancements, best practices, and research in pediatric simulation. Hosted by an expert team including Erin Carn-Bennet from Starship in New Zealand

And viewing

[Ben Symon's brilliant talk at the Victorian Simulation Alliance on the importance of algorithm design in healthcare and how simulation can help.](#)

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Upcoming Events

Bond Writers Festival

Are you an academic, educator or clinician who wants to 'write better'? After a successful 2024 launch, we simply couldn't resist offering this opportunity again. The Bond University Writers Festival will bring together a diverse community of writers and readers, to explore the art and science of writing well, and communicating our studies and stories. Lorelei Lingard headlines the event, together with talks from journal editors, prolific academic authors, and avid readers!

Registration [here.](#)

Gandel Simulation Service: 2nd Annual Simulation Symposium

Friday 28th February, 2025

@The Studio at Melbourne Connect, Carlton, VIC

Presentations from experts and industry professionals. Translational simulation projects

Information and registration [here.](#)

Monash University Human Factors and Patient Safety Conference

March 27 and 28, 2025 at Monash College in Docklands, Melbourne, Australia. 2-day event brings together experts, researchers, practitioners and industry professionals to explore developments in Human Factors and Patient Safety

SESAM Valencia, Spain

The conference for the Society for Simulation in Europe

Looking forward to 2025

From Vic, Jess and the Translational Simulation Collaborative team



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