Confused? With our ever expanding programs, technology and research projects, we have outgrown the PREPS moniker. We are working to re-brand as “SimSinai”.

Alas spring has sprung and the sun is shining! Our winter season was extremely busy peaking with our outreach ACLS program in Iqualuit Nunavut. We received a wonderful letter of thanks from the leadership group in Nunavut with hopes that we will continue our relationship building in educational simulation and training to improve patient safety.

Our outreach programs continue with support to Camp Borden. It is hopeful that in the next few months we will be able to solidify a date for another road trip to continue our ACLS training opportunities with our Canadian military men and women. Stay tuned....

We continue to work diligently in the lab to offer a wide variety of programs for all health care professionals. In order to be fair and equitable to all groups it is requested that all bookings be made as far in advance as possible and that an agenda be included with the booking. The agenda will enable the lab to set up in advance of your arrival and ensure that all of the simulators and equipment required are available and in good working condition. Wear and tear on the equipment requires frequent repairs that can take up to 3 weeks to complete. We will be ready for you if you keep us updated! Feel free to email finch.taylor@utoronto.ca or dionne.banton@utoronto.ca to book your next course. A course booking form will then be sent to you and in turn your course will be booked in the SimSinai lab calendar. We look forward to supporting your next educational event!

We would like to congratulate one of our technicians, Rustam Zinatullin; who has been accepted to the American University of Antigua College of Medicine. Rustam plans to be an Emergency medical doctor. Among Rustam’s many contributions to SimSinai is the design and construction of “MU Saratov 64”, a customized mobile unit which can be dispatched on demand and assembled in-situ within minutes. It includes a stretcher mounted Laerdal SimMan and is equipped with three independent cameras for audio/visual recordings. The MU Saratov 64 is used for “Mock Code Blues”, research for the Department of Anaesthesia as well as a number of ongoing research projects throughout Mount Sinai Hospital. MU Saratov 64 has limitless potential and can be used for various types of simulation in different areas of a hospital. We encourage anyone to drop by and see how it can assist you.

Due to Rustam’s acceptance into school, we would like to welcome our new technician, Finch Taylor. Finch was originally hired in the fall of 2010 as part-time staff for the University of
Toronto Surgical Skills Centre at Mount Sinai Hospital where his energy, hustle, humour and eagerness to learn, became a vital asset to the lab. With close to 20 years of computing experience combined with the knowledge acquired at the Surgical Skills Centre, Finch was a natural candidate to take over the reigns of SimSinai from Rustam. He has already overseen the implementations and programming of SimSinai’s new ultrasound simulator.

SEME PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

SEME is a new program funded through the Department of Family and Community Medicine and the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to provide family physicians with a three-month, full time, remunerated fellowship through a comprehensive, practical and hands-on EM experience. SEME includes eight weeks of rotations in emergency departments in Toronto and the option of supervised placements at rural- or semi-rural hospitals.

Dr. Shirley Lee who is the Assistant Director of Education at the Schwartz/Reisman Emergency Centre, Mount Sinai Hospital, and an Assistant Professor with the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto has developed a new program called the Supplemental Emergency Medicine Experience (SEME). SEME is a new program funded through the Department of Family and Community Medicine and the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to provide family physicians with a three-month, full time, remunerated fellowship through a comprehensive, practical and hands-on EM experience. SEME includes eight weeks of rotations in emergency departments in Toronto and the option of supervised placements at rural- or semi-rural hospitals.

The academic portion of SEME is designed as a series of modules addressing key procedural and clinical areas. Approximately 15 to 20 compulsory modules will be developed. Each week, learners will complete one or more modules; all modules will be completed over 3 months of full-time participation.

Modules will cover the following topic areas:

- Principles of emergency medicine
- Professionalism, communication and medico legal principles in the ED setting
- Community-based issues in emergency medicine
- Resuscitation principles
- Cardiovascular emergencies
- Respiratory emergencies
- Abdominal and gastrointestinal emergencies
- Genitourinary emergencies
- Gynaecological emergencies
- Neurological emergencies
- Psychiatric emergencies
- MSK and extremity emergencies
- EM trauma overview
- Pediatric emergencies overview
- Anesthesia/analgesia/ procedural sedation
- Violence and abuse
Learning modules will contain both web-based and in-person material. Learners will be expected to be familiar with preparatory and background information prior to a compulsory in-person academic day, held weekly throughout the 3 month session. The academic day will involve case studies, group discussion, and simulation exercises. As SEME grows, curriculum will be shared across sites, but adaptable to the local context.

We would like to congratulate our Medical Director Dr. Sev Perelman on winning the prestigious teaching award from the Wightman-Berris Academy (again!). Dr. Perelman and Dr. Wansbrough were invited to conduct a simulation workshop at the largest practical Emergency Conference in Canada - North York General Hospital Emergency Medicine Update 2012.

SimSinai staff are proud to be involved in the Simulation Medicine Faculty training for a number of future instructors from many affiliated teaching hospitals, namely North York General, Toronto East General, Trillium Health Centre - Credit Valley Hospitals and The Scarborough Hospital.

We would like to wish Dr. Kim Desouza safe travel; as she embarks to Ethiopia for a month. Dr. Desouza has been invited by the Addis Ababa University in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia as part of the Toronto –Addis Ababa Academic Collaboration in Emergency Medicine (TAAAC-EM). As a part of the TAAAC-EM team, she will be responsible for delivering the set curriculum (encompassing clinical, practical, epidemiology and administration sessions) three afternoons a week. The rest of the time will be spent in the Emergency Department at the Black Lion Hospital doing bedside teaching with Ethiopian residents.

TAAAC-EM was established in October 2010, its vision is to create an enduring academic and educational collaboration whereby Ethiopian emergency specialists are trained to lead their country’s health care system and teach future generations of physicians.

ULTRASOUND SIMULATOR

One of the first major tasks of our new technician, Finch Taylor, was to build an Emergency Department Ultrasound Simulator (edus2) based on the work of Paul Kulyk, B.Eng., B.Sc. and Paul Olszynski, MD, CCFP (EM) at the University of Saskatchewan.

The Emergency Department Ultrasound Simulator (edus2) is a portable ultrasound device that allows for the seamless integration of Emergency Department Ultrasound into high fidelity simulation scenarios. Trainees using the edus2 gain the opportunity to determine whether to
use bedside ultrasound (indications), how to properly hold and place the probe (image generation) and finally how to assess scans (image interpretation) as displayed on the screen all within the context of a scenario.

The edus2 plays predetermined video clips of areas of interest through the coupling of those videos to specific RFID cards placed under the skin of an existing simulation mannequin. A USB based RFID scanner is used hidden inside a gutted low frequency probe as a simulated probe. Multiple scans are possible during any given scenario including thoracic, cardiac, abdominal and pelvic. To our knowledge, this is the first such EDUS simulator that allows for actual use of a probe on any available manufactured simulation mannequin. Here at SimSinai the edus2 was used in a training simulation on the very day it’s build was completed!

SimSinai would like to commend and thank Mr. Kulyk and Dr. Olszynski for their efforts in designing the edus2 and sharing their knowledge with the medical community!

For more information visit their website: www.edus2.com

PRICING*

To ensure that we provide the best possible training and user experience with the most current and advanced technologies; we have had to slightly raise the prices of our ACLS courses.

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*Effective September 2012