

Technology Development Implications

Alan Liu

Director – Virtual Medical Environments
National Capital Area Medical Simulation Center
www.simcen.usuhs.mil

Overview

- A summary of initiatives
- Categories of simulation
- Simulation objectives
 - Current state
 - What's missing
 - Trends
- Summary and Conclusion

ACS Surgical Skills Curriculum/Plastic Surgery Training

- Dexterous skills
- Didactic material
- Community/group learning
- Standardized curriculum
- Metrics
- Procedural skills
- Team training

Military Medical Simulation

- Training requirements range across entire continuum of care
- Sustainment training
 - Redeployment
 - Transition into military (e.g. Army Reserve and National Guard)
 - Transition out of military

Simulation Technology

- Broadly categorized into
 - Patient Actors
 - Low Fidelity Trainers
 - Human Patient Simulators
 - Computer-Based Trainers
 - Immersive Training Environments

Patient Actors

- Individuals with training suitable for specific medical scenario

Low Fidelity Trainers

- Training devices that use substitute tasks to develop relevant motor skills
 - E.g., Dexterity Peg Board in FLS trainer
- Training devices that develop motor skills using materials that crudely approximate anatomy
 - E.g., part task trainers

Human Patient Simulators

- Whole body mannequins with integrated mechanical and electronic components to simulate physiological signs
- Often incorporates human physiological models of varying sophistication

Computer-based Trainers

- “Virtual” patient generated by 3D computer modeling
 - Accurate and varied anatomy
- Physiological modeling
- Incorporates potential for performance measurement

Immersive Training Environments

- Replicate operational environment of medical team
 - Operating Room
 - First responder
 - Mass casualty
 - Triage

Simulation Goals

- Task Training
- Procedure Training
- Team Training

Task Training

- Supported by
 - Patient Actors
 - Low fidelity trainers
 - Human Patient Simulators
 - Computer-based Trainers

Current status

Significant Advances

- Acceptance of simulation
- Integration into curriculum
- Standardization

Procedure Training

- Supported by
 - Patient actors
 - Human patient simulators
 - Computer-based trainers
- Move toward development of cognitive skills

Current Status

Cognitive Skills Development



What's missing?

- Separation of dexterous skills from cognitive skills development
 - Can this be done?
- Case bank creation

Orthogonal Training

- Motor skills trained independently of cognitive skills
- Breakdown procedures into sequence of tasks trainers
- Train decision making skills separately
- Testing vs. assessment simulators

DPL trainer

- Simple motor skills component
 - Seldinger technique
- Complex cognitive skills

Case Bank

- Variability is crucial to learning new procedures
- Ease of content creation
- Research on rule-based case creation

Team Training

- Emphasis on team dynamics
- Supported by
 - Patient Actors
 - Low Fidelity Trainers
 - Human Patient Simulators
 - Immersive Training Environments

Current Status

Problems That Need to be Addressed

- Physical presence is required
- Elaborate/extensive logistics support
- Repeatability

Physical Presence

- Flatland (U. of New Mexico)
 - Distributed team training (headmount based)
- Virtual Emergency Department (Forterra, SUMMIT)
 - Distributed team training (screen based)
- WAVE (SimCen)
 - Fully immersive environment

Support Infrastructure

- Virtual worlds
 - Flatland (U of New Mexico)
 - Flatworld (Inst. for Creative Technologies)
 - WAVE (SimCen)
- Virtual OR (Old Dominion U)
- Avatars
- Natural Language processing

Repeatability

Summary

- Initiatives
 - Civilian
 - Military
- Simulation technology categories
- Simulation objectives
 - State of the art
 - What's missing?
 - Areas of focus