

Subject:
Carolinas Simulation Center Among Four Education Institutes in the World to
Become Dually Accredited

Date:

For Release:

Carolinas Simulation Center, located in the Carolinas College of Health Sciences at Carolinas Medical Center (CMC), recently became the only dually accredited Education Institute in the Southeast, and one of only four in the world, by the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH). The Center recently earned accreditation in Assessment, Research, and Teaching/Education and was recognized at the International Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare in New Orleans. It was previously awarded a Level I accreditation by the American College of Surgeons (ACS) in 2008.

The accreditation recognizes that the simulation programs offered at the Center are standardized in content, teaching, and assessment methods, and are focused on improving the knowledge and skills of healthcare providers. The Center trains various types of practitioners from nursing and allied health students, to surgeons and emergency medicine resident physicians.

“Simulation, and more specifically having a lab on campus, has revolutionized the way we teach critical care to our residents,” said JoAnna Leuck, MD, Simulation Director for the Department of Emergency Medicine at CMC. “Emergency physicians are often called upon to perform high-risk, low-frequency procedures that we can now practice in a safe environment.”

“I have found simulation training to be an invaluable part of my education, said Liza Rosenman, MD, emergency medicine resident at CMC. “It offers an environment to practice less common, but life-threatening scenarios that could take years, maybe even decades, to see otherwise. This opportunity has made me a more confident and more competent physician in caring for my patients.”

The Center, which opened in 2007, was established as a multidisciplinary simulation center to meet the training needs of CMC and its facilities, as well as healthcare providers and community groups from across the surrounding region, and offered 10,000 learner experiences in 2010. The Simulation Center allows healthcare professionals, regardless of their level of

training, the opportunity to use interactive, life-like mannequins and other procedural simulators to practice real-life clinical scenarios and procedures in a low-stress, risk-free environment. Carolinas Simulation Center also conducts healthcare research and promotes patient safety through training and assessment.

Simulators at the Center are used to train:

- General surgery residents
- Pediatric residents
- OB/GYN residents
- Emergency medicine residents
- Family medicine residents
- Orthopedic residents
- Area Health Education Center (AHEC) nurse refresher program
- Aero-medical specialists employed by MedCenter Air
- Minimally invasive surgical fellows
- Bariatric surgery fellows
- Carolinas Laparoscopic and Advanced Surgery Program (CLASP) post graduate courses
- Medical students
- Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) students
- Nursing students
- Phlebotomy students
- Pre-health students

State-of-the-art simulation equipment at the Center includes patient simulators such as the Laerdal® SimMan and SimBaby, the METI HPS Adult and Pediatric, and the NOELLE® Maternity Simulator, as well as procedural and task trainers like Virtual Reality and realistic Laparoscopic Surgery Simulators, IV/Phlebotomy Virtual Reality Simulators, Central Line and arterial line placement simulators, trauma, orthopedic and gynecologic trainers, and several others.

Dimitrios Stefanidis, MD, PhD, FACS serves as the Medical Director of the Simulation Center and Dawn Swiderski, RN, BSN, CCRN is the Coordinator of the Center. Dawn can be reached by emailing Dawn.swiderski@carolinashealthcare.org or calling 704-355-8260.

For media inquiries, contact CHS Public Relations at 704-355-3141.

About CCHS

Carolinas College of Health Sciences is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Commission on Colleges to offer associate of applied science degrees, diplomas and certificates. Offered are programs in health care education leading to careers in nursing, surgical technology, radiologic technology, medical laboratory science and radiation therapy, as well as individual classes in the sciences and liberal arts. In 2010, the College was named the third best community college in the United States by *Washington Monthly*.

About Carolinas HealthCare System

[Carolinas HealthCare System](http://www.carolinashealthcare.org) (www.carolinashealthcare.org), one of the leading healthcare organizations in the Southeast, includes 33 affiliated hospitals in North and South Carolina. CHS provides a lifetime medical home to all patients through a network of some 600 care locations that includes hospitals, health care pavilions, physician practices, surgical and rehabilitation centers, home health agencies, nursing homes and other facilities. These operations comprise more than 1,700 employed physicians, 6,300 licensed beds and 48,000 employees.