

Welcome to the inaugural newsletter of ASSH, the Australian Society for Simulation in Healthcare. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep members informed of what is happening in the rapidly changing world of healthcare simulation in Australia. This newsletter provides an opportunity to share your experiences with others engaged in the use of simulation to improve healthcare.

Message from Chair:

As the new Chair of ASSH, and as in my role as the Executive Director of the Queensland Health Clinical Skills Development Service I am privileged to attend several conferences a year covering education, technology and healthcare redesign.

This year SimTecT Health was by far the most engaging conference I have attended. From the first plenary session with a talented panel led by Professor Stewart Dunn, through to the closing plenary session by A/Professor Dan Raemer. The conference had a high level of energy throughout and the breadth and depth of the program was particularly interesting.

For ASSH members who were not fortunate enough to attend the conference I highly recommend spending some time reviewing the program and abstracts in the conference handbook available from the [SimTecT Health website](#). The handbook is an excellent synopsis of the conference, but of course can't replace the benefit of actually attending what proved to be inspiring workshops and fabulous social events. So we hope to see you all at next year's conference 2011, at the Sydney Hilton hotel (see later);

The keynotes, organised by Dr Cate McIntosh's conference [team](#) were outstanding. Meeting Professor Jeffrey Cooper and Professor René Amalberti was a personal highlight for me as their work has heavily influenced my career in healthcare human factors. Professor Maggie Nicol presented some great work on Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching Skills Bus that has inspired other mobile skills facilities in the UK.

I would like to thank the conference Convenor Dr Cate McIntosh for her extraordinary effort in bringing together such an international conference of exceptionally high standard. Cate's leadership and personal commitment to every detail of SimTecT Health 2010 produced an outstanding program. I would like to thank all the committees who worked hard to produce an excellent outcome. The [Scientific committee](#) reviewed the numerous national and international abstracts submitted for posters and oral presentations. This was a pleasant task for the [reviewers](#) as the standard of submissions was of high calibre. Special thanks to Dr Stuart Marshall who accomplished much of the coordination of the review process. A thank you to the committee members who have contributed their time and effort. Once again our conference organisers Consec ensured the smooth running of the conference with their professional and expert team of organisers. Last but not least, of course, thanks to our sponsors and exhibitors who partnered with us to help make the conference a resounding success.

SimHealth conference:

Since 2005, ASSH has been organising a separate Health Simulation conference. Anecdotal comments indicate that many people believe the "SimTecT Health" conference is about technology. After gaining more in-depth feedback from delegates, the Organising Committee has decided on the above name change for the conference.

This year our Convenor is [Professor Peter Brooks](#) - Director of the [Australian Health Workforce Institute](#). Our deputy Convenor is [Associate Professor Christopher Churchouse](#), - Clinical and International Nursing, [Edith Cowan University](#).

Keep up to date with the latest news for the conference via our website [SimHealth 2011 conference](#)

Note: Call for Abstracts closes on the 14th of February 2011.

Special Interest Groups (SIG's)

Two ASSH special interest groups were formed during the SimTecT Health 2010 conference: the Paediatric and Neonatal Special Interest Group and the Rural Special Interest Group. In this edition we have a report from Marino Festa - Paediatric and Neonatal Special Interest Group Chair:

Paediatric and Neonatal Special Interest Group

The inaugural meeting of the newly formed Paediatric and Neonatal Special Interest Group (PANSIG) was attended by a broad group of clinicians interested in paediatric and neonatal simulation, from all disciplines of health including medicine, nursing and paramedicine. We had the opportunity to agree the aims and purpose of the group - that is to provide opportunities for us to share knowledge, develop standards, understand complexity and improve access for practitioners from all health professional groups to paediatric and neonatal education using simulation. I encourage all educators using or interested in using paediatric or neonatal simulation for education of healthcare staff to join PANSIG by becoming a [member](#) of ASSH.

It was agreed that we would like to have another meeting for PANSIG in the calendar year outside of SimTecT Health and that for our first meeting in 2011, this will be held as a 1-day symposium to coincide with the World Federation of Paediatric Intensive and Critical Care Societies' (WFPICCS) meeting in Sydney in March 2011. The date for the symposium has now been set as Saturday 12th March 2011 and registration for the symposium will be made available via the [website](#) for the WFPICCS meeting.

It is hoped that, as well as acting as an opportunity to meet with international experts in the field of paediatric simulation, the symposium will prove a milestone for the group, and give us momentum by attracting more people to PANSIG and creating more networking opportunities. Further information on the symposium can also be obtained by emailing [Marino Festa](#).

Marino Festa □ Acting Chair Paediatric and Neonatal Special Interest Group, ASSH

Newsletter

How can the ASSH newsletter help you and your colleagues?

Healthcare simulation in Australia is dispersed widely and we have limited opportunities to benefit from the simulation expertise that exists in isolated pockets around the country. The newsletter provides an opportunity for you to learn from your colleagues, but also help your colleagues, by submitting articles that share your experiences. The types of articles we are looking for are short synopses (150-500 words) of work relevant to healthcare simulation and elevator pitches (see below) to help promote simulation in healthcare. As we get feedback about the types of articles ASSH members want to share we will create a terms of reference for the newsletter. The terms of reference will reflect the ASSH terms of reference where we engage through the ASSH newsletter "To promote simulation education, training and research, to enhance the safety and quality of healthcare in Australia." See the [ASSH terms of reference](#).

Submissions dates for articles are the third Friday of the month and we will distribute the newsletter the following week. From time to time we may hold material over to a subsequent edition so as to ensure some degree of uniformity in terms of format and length of the newsletter.

The elevator pitch - Request for participation

There is a strong belief within the simulation community that appropriate use of simulation can contribute to improvement in patient outcomes - there is now mounting evidence that this is indeed the case in certain contexts. However, investment in simulation in healthcare is still quite low. To increase the effective use of simulation we need to convince the 'bean-counters' to buy into simulation. If we only had the right pitch for our CEO!

What is your 60 second elevator pitch to plug simulation?

Please submit your pitch (250 words max) so we can share your good idea. We will publish examples in each edition of the newsletter to help others in the community promote effective simulation in healthcare. There are plenty of guides on line on how to develop an elevator pitch (for [example](#)).

Awards

The Australian Society for Simulation in Healthcare (ASSH) is a young society, having only been formed in 2007, although work was undertaken over several years prior to that time to help with the establishment of the Society.

We have reached a point in the history of ASSH where some of the individuals who were pivotal in the

establishment of the Society are moving on to other endeavours. That being the case, the ASSH Executive has deemed it appropriate to consider the establishment of the ASSH Distinguished Service Awards to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the field of healthcare simulation in Australia over a prolonged period of time.

It is our pleasure to award the following recipients with an ASSH Distinguished Service Award:

Dr Patrick Cregan FRACS

Pat Cregan is a Visiting Surgeon at Nepean Hospital, Penrith in Western Sydney, with a special interest in endocrine and laparoscopic surgery. Pat has served on the ASSH Executive from the time ASSH was formally established in 2007 until the present day. In fact Pat has been a part of the Australian medical simulation community since the very beginning, being the first person to propose the idea of an Australian Medical Simulation Society, and being the co-founder of what was known as the Australian Medical Simulation Society back in 2000. Pat has had a longstanding interest in surgical robotics - he was the first surgeon in Australia and the sixth surgeon in the world to perform a tele-surgical procedure back in 1998. Pat is also very involved in projects relating to the use of haptic-visual environments - he is an active participant with the eHealth Group of CSIRO.

Pat has had to step down from his role with ASSH due to other work commitments - he holds several other appointments as follows:

- Clinical Program Director of Surgery, Sydney West Area Health Service
- Adjunct Associate Professor of Surgery at the University of Western Sydney
- Chair Surgical Services Taskforce NSW Dept of Health
- Chair of the Virtual Critical Care Unit (ViCCU) Project
- Member Scientific Advisory and governance committees RACS Simulated Surgical Skills Programme
- Member Board of Directors NSW Cancer Institute and NSW Cancer Council
- Member NSW Health Care Advisory Council

ASSH has been very well served by Pat's specialty interests in simulation, his broad understanding of the healthcare system and the surgical perspective he has brought to the Society's activities.

Dr Graham Beaumont PhD

Graham Beaumont has been the Treasurer of the Australian Society for Simulation in Healthcare since its inception in 2007 - in fact since before ASSH's inception, as he began his role in what was to become ASSH as early as 2005.

Graham has a long and impressive history in the aviation and business worlds, with some of his achievements summarised here to give a sense of the corporate and Human Factors wisdom he has brought into the healthcare simulation community. Graham has been involved in the airline industry since 1969, starting with a variety of pilot and Captain roles in Qantas, including a progressively increasing role in pilot training. He developed and implemented the initial Human Factors training in Qantas in the late 80's, undertook a number of training development projects at Qantas during the 90's and was a simulator and line training captain from 2000-2003.

From 1997 - 2002, he completed his PhD on *An Investigation into the Management of Flight Aspects of Airline Captain Performance* at the University of Western Sydney.

Since 2003 Graham has worked in a Human Factors and Operational consultancy capacity to the Aviation, Power, & Healthcare sectors. Graham's work in the healthcare sector has included being a Board Member of the Institute for Clinical Excellence, NSW Health from 2001-2004, and a Board Member of the Clinical Excellence Commission of NSW from 2005-2008.

ASSH has benefited enormously from his wealth of business knowledge and his corporate wisdom. As the ASSH Treasurer he has been instrumental in ensuring the financial success of ASSH and each year delivered a profitable budget. His cost effective ideas and financial business acumen have proven to be a valuable asset to the ASSH Executive.

Ms Katie Walker RN, RM

Katie Walker is currently the Project Manager for the Simulated Learning Environments project for Health Workforce Australia (HWA), a position she has held since March 2009.

Katie was the inaugural Secretary of the Australian Society for Simulation in Healthcare from the time of ASSH's establishment in 2007 until September 2009. She then became the Chair-Elect of ASSH, with the expectation of becoming the incoming ASSH Chair at this meeting, a position she has had to forego in association with taking up her new role with HWA.

After initially working as a Clinical Nurse Educator and then Acting Director of Nursing, Katie undertook a variety of roles at the Queensland Skills Development Centre from 2003-2009, namely:

- Acting CEO (as required)
- Project Manager, Curriculum Development
- Simulation Development Manager

In 2006 Katie was the recipient of a Churchill Fellowship to study Clinical Simulation Centres in the USA, UK, and Europe, visiting 35 simulation centres during her travels.

Katie has been an outstanding international ambassador for healthcare simulation in Australia helping forge ASSH's strong links with the international Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH) through a variety of roles, including:

- Executive Committee member of the SSH Instructor Certification committee
- Co-Chair of SSH international Affiliations Committee
- Co-convenor of the 2010 International Meeting for Simulation in Healthcare, Phoenix, Arizona
- Co-Chair of the first Asia-Pacific Healthcare Simulation Meeting to be held in Hong Kong in May 2011.
- Member of the International Society for Simulation in Healthcare's (SSH) Oversight Committee

ASSH has been fortunate to benefit from Katie's strong commitment and her enduring passion to spread the word about simulation in a global capacity. Her wealth of knowledge, experience and strong networking links has greatly benefited not only the SimTecT Health conferences but also all activities relating to ASSH.

Simulation Australia Achievement Award

Each year, the Board of the Simulation Australia considers nominations for a Simulation Australia [Achievement Award](#). Candidates for the Achievement Award will have demonstrated: "A significant contribution to the development of modelling and simulation science, technology, policy, standards and / or industry in Australia."

Dr Leonie Watterson MBBS , FANZCA, MClinEd

This year the Simulation Australia Board acknowledged the outstanding contribution to simulation in Australian healthcare made over a long period of time by Dr Leonie Watterson.

Leonie has been at the forefront of the establishment of simulation-based education, training and research in healthcare in Australia since 1997. Her commitment to this role is demonstrable through the progressive escalation of her role nationally:

As the director of one of the first simulation centres in the country, the Sydney Medical Simulation Centre at Royal North Shore Hospital, a position Leonie still holds (now called Sydney Clinical Skills and Simulation Centre) In a founding role in the integration of simulation-based education into the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) and chairing ANZCA's Simulation Special Interest Group, and in the establishment of the Australian Society for Simulation in Healthcare (ASSH), of which Leonie was the inaugural Chair in 2007. In helping drive the establishment of ASSH, Leonie undertook an enormous amount of work drawing together a myriad of healthcare and related stakeholders to establish the Society. Leonie was also primarily responsible for developing the Society's Terms of Reference and operational guidelines. In her role as inaugural Chair

of ASSH Leonie was also involved in a series of high-level talks with the Federal Department of Health and Ageing (DOHA) to provide advice on a national strategy for simulation in healthcare. One of her current roles is as a member of the National Expert Reference Group for the Health Workforce Australia's Simulation Learning Environment Project, to guide a national strategy around healthcare simulation infrastructure.

Leonie's professional achievements also include convening the national ASSH conference, SimTecT Health, for several years. SimTecT has quickly become established as the premier healthcare simulation conference in the Asia Pacific region. Leonie has often been involved in the scientific review process for this conference as well.

Remarkably, throughout this time and continuing to this day, Leonie has been able to maintain her role as a practicing anaesthetist and as a valued contributor to the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) - as well as managing to complete a Masters of Education. It is quite a challenge to work as an anaesthetist, establish and manage a simulation centre, and conduct high-quality educational research, especially in the face of centre infrastructure constraints.

Despite this Leonie is well published in peer-reviewed journals in aspects of both anaesthesia practice and simulation. An excellent example that spans both fields is that Leonie has been a principal author of an innovative simulation based course that has become a requirement for specialist anaesthesia training in Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong - the Effective Management of Anaesthesia Crises (EMAC) course. Leonie maintains an ongoing role in overseeing aspects of the periodic revision of the course. Leonie has also undertaken important research regarding the validation of the use of simulation for the performance assessment of clinicians.

Thanks to her efforts Australia is leading the way in many aspects of healthcare simulation internationally.

Your ASSH membership

It is important to note that your ASSH membership includes a SSH membership that requires activation on the SSH website using the pre-paid SSH coupon issued with your welcome letter. The SSH membership provides access to the Simulation in Healthcare Journal, Listserv and networking and curriculum sharing opportunities. If you need further assistance please contact Andrea Coulsell via email Projectofficer@siaa.asn.au