Patient simulation centre opens at UBC Clinical Academic Campus

Medical students and health professionals get realistic, hands-on training

A new state-of-the-art patient simulation centre opens today at the Clinical Academic Campus of UBC’s Southern Medical Program at Kelowna General Hospital. The facility is supported by a $500,000 donation from The Colin & Lois Pritchard Foundation.

The Pritchard Simulation Centre – a joint venture between the UBC Faculty of Medicine and Interior Health – will replicate a variety of high-risk / low-probability medical scenarios to provide hands-on training experience.

The centre will be used extensively for medicine and nursing education and continuing professional development particularly for cardiac and critical-care personnel.

“Patient simulation is highly advantageous to medical education and health professional training,” says Dr. Allan Jones, regional associate dean, Interior. “It helps promote patient safety, benefits clinical skills teaching, and provides opportunities for inter-professional team training. This centre will be an invaluable resource for both Southern Medical Program students and countless health professionals in our region.”

“The generosity of the Colin and Lois Pritchard Foundation as well as the anonymous donor will benefit the health professionals – including Southern Medical program students – being trained here in Kelowna,” said Kelowna-Mission MLA Steve Thomson.

“The contribution announced today builds on the dollars being invested in health care in the region.”

The centre’s two primary features are SimMan 3G and Harvey. SimMan is a portable, high-fidelity patient simulator that mimics the physiological reactions of a live human being. For example, SimMan bleeds, sweats, blinks, breathes, and talks as a real person does. It is designed to respond to numerous medical procedures including cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR), intubation, resuscitation and defibrillation.

Harvey is a stationary patient simulator that replicates cardio and pulmonary sounds, allowing students and health-care professionals to identify and discuss the sound or medical condition.

The Pritchard family has also created an endowment fund to support student awards in the Southern Medical Program. Their gift of $50,000 has been matched by an anonymous donor. The fund will provide bursaries to medical students in the Southern Medical Program.

“Our family values health care and education,” says Colin Pritchard. Our hope is that this centre will advance training for both medical students and health professionals in our region, and contribute to the quality of health care in the Southern Interior.”

Norman Embree, board chair of Interior Health, says the health authority places a high value on its partnership with UBC.

“The simulation centre provides more training opportunities for our physicians, nurses and other health-care professionals,” says Embree. “For example, the simulators will be used for training in cardiac-arrest management and diagnosing heart conditions and diseases.”
Good medicine involves good team work, says Jones. The Pritchard Simulation Centre will also be valuable for team training particularly in emergency and trauma scenarios where the need to work well together under intense conditions is paramount to good patient outcomes.

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BACKGROUNDER

Southern Medical Program
The UBC Faculty of Medicine offers undergraduate medical education in four regions across B.C. The Southern Medical Program -- launched in September 2011 -- is based at UBC’s Okanagan campus and delivered in collaboration with clinical teaching sites throughout the Interior Health region. For more information visit www.smp.med.ubc.ca.

Pritchard Simulation Centre
The Colin & Lois Pritchard Foundation has provided a gift of $500,000 to construct and equip the Pritchard Simulation Centre in the Clinical Academic Campus at Kelowna General Hospital. The 1500 sq. ft. centre houses two high-tech patient simulators, two simulation rooms and a debriefing room.

The first simulation room features SimMan 3G-- a high-fidelity patient simulator situated in a realistic ER or ICU setting. This highly advanced mannequin breathes, blinks, sweats and responds to medications. SimMan 3G helps create a safe learning environment for students and medical professionals who need experience in real life, often highly charged medical situations.

The second simulation room has a cardiopulmonary simulator named Harvey, specifically designed to train students, residents, and physicians on heart and lung sounds, as well as to readily detect associated cardiac conditions and diseases. Both simulation rooms are outfitted with recording cameras and microphones which capture the events of the scenario.

A debriefing room allows trainees to reflect immediately on the scenario performed, review video, assess performance, and highlight areas of strength and areas for improvement.

User groups include medical and nursing education (both undergraduate and postgraduate), medicine and nursing continuing professional development particularly cardiac and critical care personnel, and paramedical services.
Interior Health contributed $176,500 toward the Pritchard Simulation Centre’s construction and purchase of furniture and minor equipment. In addition, Interior Health provides the space for the centre including utilities, housekeeping, and security for an equivalent annual amount of $60,000 per year.