

BAYSTATE SIMULATION CENTER AND GOLDBERG SURGICAL SKILLS LAB

Where we've been...

The mission of the Baystate Simulation Center and Goldberg Surgical Skills Lab (the Center) is to advance practitioner skill and knowledge in order to achieve measurable improvements in the way we care for patients. Recently, the use of simulator training devices and developed training curricula has increased dramatically, and BMC is fortunate to be at the forefront of a variety of simulation-based training endeavors across the nation. Use of this modality supports a patient-centric focus which aids in the identification of the educational needs in a challenging, educational environment. Our curricula and training experiences center on the premises of knowledge, skill, and attitude that pertain directly to quality and compassion. The Center is committed to advancement of medical knowledge, patient care and safety, teamwork, and innovations through medical education in a controlled and “forgiving” simulated setting which is beneficial and valuable to all learners, from medical students to student nurses, nurses and residents from a variety of specialties, physicians, ancillary healthcare providers, and many others (including community outreach program participants). The Center is key to supplementation of medical training in light of current limitations, large provider-patient ratio workloads, and abbreviated orientation periods. Training our healthcare providers in this controlled, safe, reproducible setting is not only an investment in the future of our healthcare teams, but also in the health of our patients, and simulation has proven to be an invaluable tool incorporating innovation in medical education.

Where we are now...

Approximately one year ago, the Center completed a significant expansion – both physically and technically – to meet the needs of our learners and to keep BMC on the cutting edge of healthcare technology through a variety of additional (and updated) simulation devices. In June 2007, we became one of less than twenty nationally recognized Level I Education Institutes accredited by the American College of Surgeons, and as of this date, we are one of thirty-nine accredited Education Institutes in the world. The accreditation provides us with recognition by our peers and participants as a resource for the education of healthcare providers. It also puts us within an influential community of innovative educators that can provide networking and collaboration with respect to healthcare education foundations. In addition, we are actively participating in pioneering developments in the field of simulation-based instruction in core surgical competency training, under newly developed resident training curricula of the American College of Surgeons and Association of Program Directors in Surgery. We are well positioned in the field of simulation education, as several certifying agencies will soon be requiring that simulation be an integral part of healthcare provider training, further validating the value of our simulation center endeavors.

Where we are going...

The future holds much promise regarding expansion of established programs and development of new educational opportunities. Over the next two years, the Center plans to improve upon established curricular activities in the departments of Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Medicine, Pediatrics, Anesthesiology, Emergency Medicine, Critical Care Medicine, and Nursing. Many of these programs will be involved in interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary team training activities in addition to current curricular programs. Soon, Neonatology, Geriatrics, and Psychiatry programs in simulation will be developed. An expanded medical student curriculum in conjunction with major Tufts University affiliates will be implemented by core Baystate faculty members of the Tufts Simulation Curriculum Committee, which works closely with the medical school in concert with the upcoming modified general curriculum. Nursing orientation and maintenance of skills programs, continued efforts towards resident and physician maintenance of qualifications training, expanded efforts towards remediation, further developments in research, and implementation of intensive orientation “boot camps” for learners in various specialty areas will continue to expand as invaluable resources of this institution.