UAB Simulation Fellowship

Overview

Over the past 15 years, simulation has become increasingly important in health professions education. Teamwork, communication skills, crisis resource management, and core clinical skills can be integrated into simulated patient care scenarios and used as an effective tool for learners to perfect infrequent and high stakes patient care that impacts patient outcomes.

The UAB simulation fellow will serve in a hybrid clinician / educator / researcher position. Fellow duties include the clinical care of patients in either Emergency Medicine (adult or pediatric) or Anesthesiology within the UAB Health System in addition to increasing simulation capabilities in the areas of program delivery, operations, and management. The Fellow will have protected time to develop a research project based on individual interests in the field of medical simulation and will be encouraged to attend and present his or her simulation research at regional, national, and/or international simulation conferences.

Upon completion of the simulation fellowship program, the graduate will be prepared to assume a leadership position in delivering and managing a healthcare simulation program. Fellows will also have the opportunity to develop expertise in the educational, administrative, and research aspects of a simulation program. The simulation fellowship at UAB Health System is a one year non-ACGME accredited fellowship.

Program Advantages

The UAB Simulation Fellowship is offered through the Office of Interprofessional Simulation for Innovative Clinical Practice (OIPS) at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). OIPS is a joint venture between the UAB health schools and the UAB Health System. In 2015, a total of 8,798 learners participated in over 18,000 hours of simulation. Out of those totals, 32% of learners were from the UAB School of Medicine yielding 4,477 learner hours of simulation. School of Medicine faculty provided almost...
1,000 hours of matching time in simulation facilitation demonstrating the commitment of the faculty to teaching in the simulated setting. Simulation plays an important role in the educational process of our Anesthesia, Pediatric, Emergency Medicine, and Internal Medicine residents and students as they complete their clinical rotations. Fellows will have the opportunity to participate in and develop educational material for both medical students and residents.

The OIPS team includes a diverse group of faculty and staff including physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, educators, biomedical engineers, audio-visual specialists, and individuals with expertise in web design, operations, and finance. The Fellow’s development in all aspects of healthcare simulation is our priority. In a typical year, 50% of the simulations delivered by our team are immersive, 40% are procedural, and 10% are focused on simulation development and delivery of pilot activity. OIPS is involved with simulation modalities across the entire spectrum including task trainers, standardized patients, high-fidelity manikins, hybrid and virtual reality. In addition OIPS offers simulation across a broad range of learners from middle school students to veteran healthcare practitioners. A particular focus is on interprofessionalism and teamwork training. This depth and breadth combination will allow the Fellow to have a well-rounded experience and be prepared for a career in healthcare simulation.

OIPS has developed a tiered faculty development curriculum, known as SimUAB™ certification with the goal of maintaining quality and consistency among simulation facilitators. Fellows will have the opportunity to complete all requirements of SimUAB™ certification during their fellowship. Course topics include designing simulation scenarios, the embedded simulation participant, debriefing basics, advanced debriefing, facilitating interprofessional debriefing, facilitating procedural skills, and facilitating in situ simulations. Over 41% of the learners in these faculty development courses come from the UAB Health System and the School of Medicine, once again demonstrating a commitment of excellence in simulation methodology among our faculty, staff, and clinicians.

The core simulation faculty at UAB have completed their initial and advanced instructor training at the Center for Medical Simulation. These core faculty members have a combined total of over 25 years of experience in the field of simulation. Additional faculty and staff from the Schools of Medicine, Nursing, Health Professions and the UAB Health System work with the Fellows in a wide range of educational sessions throughout the year to ensure development in all areas.

**Program Design**

The Simulation Fellowship at UAB Health System has a well-developed curriculum with clear goals and objectives.

Simulation Fellowship Goals:

1. To train the Fellow in evidence-based simulation methodology
2. To expose the Fellow to innovative and up-to-date simulation technology
3. To develop a knowledgeable and experienced simulation expert capable of establishing themselves as a leader in the field of simulation

Educational Objectives: By the end of the fellowship, the Fellow will have demonstrated:

1. Expertise in case development/scenario building
2. The ability to effectively debrief learners from a variety of disciplines
3. The ability to appropriately interact with learners as an embedded simulation participant
4. Expertise in the use of a wide variety of healthcare simulation equipment, training devices, and moulage
5. The ability to implement or integrate a formal simulation based curriculum into existing training programs
6. Expertise in the principles of Crisis Resource Management and the integration of these principles into simulation scenarios

In a typical week, the Fellow will have the following time commitments:
- 8-16 hours of clinical care, depending on specialty
- 16-24 hours of simulation scenario development, implementation, and facilitation
- 8-16 hours of simulation research / administrative duties

Fellows will be expected to work an average of 1-2 clinical shifts per week in their area of clinical expertise with the details to be worked out with the participating departments/divisions. These clinical duties will allow the opportunity to maintain clinical skills as well as provide realistic material for development of authentic simulation scenarios.

Required Texts:


Fellows will have regularly scheduled readings from the required textbooks (above) and from select peer-reviewed manuscripts. An electronic compilation of select peer-reviewed manuscripts focusing on healthcare simulation/education will be provided upon entry to the program.
Fellows will be required to participate in a regularly occurring simulation journal clubs where manuscripts from recent literature will be discussed with the UAB simulation facilitator community.

Fellows will be expected to complete a scholarly project during their fellowship year.

**Application Process**

Fellowship applicants must be board-eligible/board-certified in Anesthesiology, Emergency Medicine and/or Pediatric Emergency Medicine and eligible for an appointment as an attending physician in Anesthesiology, Emergency Medicine, or Pediatric Emergency medicine in the UAB Health System.

Letters of recommendation from the applicant’s residency program director and division director/chairman are required. Both letters must be dated, signed, and on institutional letterhead. A curriculum vitae and a one-page personal statement are also required to complete the application. Additional documentation may be required depending on the specialty involved.

The UAB Simulation Fellowship Program will accept international fellows with funding from their Ministry of Health or sponsoring institution. Fellows with a J1 Visa are also welcome to apply. Board-eligibility will be handled on an individual basis in this case.

Applications are accepted from July 1st through November 1st. Interviews will be conducted from October 1st through December 15th. Fellowship position offers are typically announced in late December for a July 1 start date the following year. Only those individuals with completed application packets will be considered for an interview. Applications outside the regular admission cycle will be reviewed and special circumstances can be taken into consideration.