

## **Experiential Reflections on the INACSL-CAE Healthcare Simulation Fellowship Programme**

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### **Review Article**

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**Abstract:** Simulation enhanced healthcare clinical education, has evolved tremendously during the last 10 years [1]. This evolution was driven primarily by the desire and intension to improve healthcare professional's skills and hence patient safety. One step towards spreading the use of standardized healthcare simulation is the training of simulation educators and directors of simulation facilities. Different professional and academic organization, played variable roles in advancing the practice of simulation in teaching healthcare cadre, among these is CAE and INACSL, two pioneers in the field. In this article, I reflect on my personal experience and benefit from the Healthcare Simulation Fellowship offered jointly by CAE and INACSL in Abu Dhabi.

**Keywords:** Experiential Reflections, Fellowship Programme.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning (INACSL) has developed the INACSL Standards of Best Practice Simulation [2], to advance the science of simulation, share best practices, and provide evidence based guidelines for implementation and training, they demonstrates a commitment to quality and implementation of rigorous evidence based practices in healthcare education to improve patient care by complying with practice standards in the areas of Simulation Design, Outcomes and Objectives, Facilitation, debriefing, Participant evaluation, Professional Integrity, Simulation-Enhanced Interprofessional Education (Sim-IPE) and Simulation Glossary.

This Healthcare Simulation Fellowship offers global participants the opportunity to design, facilitate and debrief a Simulated Clinical Experience (SCE) using the INACSL Standards of Best Practice, and designed for new simulation educators, existing simulation educators who need additional support, and directors overseeing a simulation centers. The course is experiential and interactive in nature and utilizes seminars, discussion groups, plenary sessions and "hands on" activities to deliver course content. Each Fellowship is a three-part program consisting of webinars, face-to-face workshops, and mentoring. Each cohort will consist of no more than 30 participants and three facilitators.

Facilitators are simulation experts with five or more years of experience creating and delivering effective simulation education globally. The program is divided into 3 modules. Each of the first 2 modules has two elements, webinar and a face-to-face workshop, the third module was a series of online mentoring meetings.

The INACSL-CAE fellowship cohort in the United Arab Emirates is the first cohort outside the United States. I registered to this cohort in March and the fellowship activities were launched with the first introductory webinar early in April 2016. In May 2016, I had the chance to join the first workshop in the fellowship program activities, the workshop was held at Fatima College for Health Sciences in Abu Dhabi. During this workshop we have an overview of the INACSL and CAE, fellowship objectives, Simulation Pedagogy, Education theory and we were introduced to the INACSL Standards of best practice in healthcare simulation. During this workshop we had the opportunity to visit the Imaging Simulation Center of Fatima College for health sciences, which was a state of the art simulation centre for imaging in the gulf region.

The second face-to-face workshop was held in August 2016 at the national ambulance in Abu Dhabi, it was preceded with a webinar on how to communicate to facilitate a webinar. During this workshop we learnt the details of INACSL standards, and we had a well

facilitated hands-on-training own simulation design, scenario writing/story boards, facilitation, feedback and debriefing.

The mentoring program which started in September 2016 was an excellent opportunity to have expertise guidance, together with an in-depth exposure to the different aspects of research tool development in healthcare simulation, publishing and research article review process. During this mentoring module, I practiced the art of writing and reviewing research articles, now I feel more confident when reading, writing or reviewing an article in the field of healthcare simulation.

This fellowship program provided me with a chance to be exposed to the INACSL standards of best practice in clinical simulation, from the experts who have been actively involved in developing those standards. Both the face to face and online learning environments were safe, relaxing, and communication and discussion enabling.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Finally, I would like to outline that the CAE-INACSL fellowship team was very supportive and made us feel confident. Those were workshops, webinars and meetings full of knowledge that improved my skills as educator and particularly as healthcare simulation fellow. I am very grateful to the fellowship facilitators. They are brilliant healthcare simulation experts and wonderful people who always kept us motivated and transmitted to us their passion for simulation. I would also like to gratefully thank, Fatima College for Health Science and The National ambulance in Abu Dhabi, for hosting the fellowship cohort.

I definitely recommend CAE-INACSL Clinical Simulation Fellowship Programme to every healthcare professional interned in interested in improving his skills as healthcare simulation facilitator, educator or simulation center manager. It's a real opportunity, for collaboration and networking in healthcare simulation, which will undoubtedly, enrich and foster his career development.

I would really recommend that INACSL and CAE Health Care continue providing this UAE cohort, because it will pave the road for the future of simulation in the region.

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#### **Conflict of interest**

I declare no conflict of interest

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