

Evidence is Not Enough. Establishing a Center for Advanced Simulation and Training.

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Abstract

The Center for Advanced Medical Simulation and training (CAMST) in Stockholm is a regional strategic core facility supported by the Stockholm County Council (Stockholms läns landsting) and Karolinska Institutet. Its mission is to provide possibilities for advanced training integrating advanced simulation technology for both health care staff and students in the interest of patient safety. There are presently 25 physician- and nurse trainers employed on a part time basis. Courses are given in a wide range of clinical specialities.

The Center was officially inaugurated in 2002 by the head of the national board of health and welfare (Socialstyrelsen) Kerstin Wigzell. It is now an accredited level I education institute by the American College of Surgeons.

Training, research and development are the cornerstones on which the activities at the Center rest upon. Continuous validation and instructor training and education are paramount.

There is ample scientific evidence of the effectiveness of systematic training to reduce technical and non-technical errors in health care. Advanced medical simulation also allows implementation of both tangibles and intangibles of an improved safety culture.

Bridging the gap for increased patient safety by means of advanced medical simulation training of staff and students is a laborious effort and venture. The passive resistance of a culture that still lures in the Halsted see one, do one, teach one era should not be underestimated despite evidence for effect of training. In order to speed up transition, training should also be implemented on the undergraduate level where resistance is absent and demand is high.