

Finis Terrae University

Simulation center expands to improve healthcare for maternal, neonatal, pediatric and elder patients.



Santiago, Chile

Finis Terrae University has completed expansion of its Clinical Simulation Center. The state-of-the-art facility now includes simulation rooms for maternal, neonatal, pediatric and elder care in addition to an existing surgical ward and intensive care unit. Simulation is fully integrated into Finis Terrae's curricula for nearly 700 students in its Schools of Medicine and Nursing. The Simulation Center is the first in Chile to integrate SimMom™, the advanced full-body interactive birthing simulator, into healthcare training programs. SimMom™ offers students risk-free practice of multiple delivery positions and maneuvers, teamwork, leadership and communication skills using video, audio, scenarios and realistic environments.



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Collaborative Program model strengthens simulation training for nurses

Eliana Escudero Zúñiga, Director of the Finis Terrae University School of Nursing and chairperson of the new Chilean Society of Clinical Simulation and Patient Safety, said, "the establishment and expansion of our Simulation Center grew out of our deep desire to create for our students the highest quality and most realistic learning experiences. We equipped our facilities with the best simulators and a full array of other technologies and equipment to achieve our ultimate goal of becoming a model simulation center."

The university's four-year nursing program was established in 2010; 200 nursing students currently receive high-fidelity hands-on simulation training in a risk-free environment.

Escudero Zúñiga is collaborating with Pamela Jeffries (PhD, RN, ANEF, FAAN, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor at Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing) to establish a nursing student exchange program focused on assessment and training. Jeffries offered a master class at Finis Terrae in 2009 during the official launch of the School of Nursing. The first Johns Hopkins nursing students arrived at Finis Terrae in 2011; in January 2013, a group of Finis Terrae nursing students will begin their studies at Johns Hopkins.

"Pam has closely followed the development of our simulation program at Finis Terrae, especially regarding the issue of patient safety to our field," said Escudero Zúñiga. The Finis Terrae nursing program is based on a three-year National League for Nursing (NLN) project that was funded by Laerdal to create the Simulation Innovation Resource Center (SIRC). Escudero Zúñiga's participation in this international collaboration fortified the university's integration of simulation as a teaching/learning strategy used to evaluate nursing students' progress.

"These new technologies are revolutionizing the medical world."

Nursing students at Finis Terrae receive an education that is comparable to training programs offered in the world's best

simulation centers. Simulation is now fully integrated into the curriculum of the School of Nursing. It is used in courses on anatomy, physiology, sterilization processes and biosafety, first aid, clinical pharmacology and medical-surgical procedures, as well as in the new programs for pediatrics, neonatal and maternal care that rely on SimMom™ to train nurses. SimMom™ may be used as hybrid trainer, full body simulator, female pregnant simulator and for non-obstetric training; it offers teachers full functionality to completely train individuals and teams in midwifery and obstetric skills using a wide array of pre-programmed scenarios.

At the ribbon cutting ceremonies for the newly expanded four-floor Clinical Simulation Center, the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Albert Dougnac, MD, noted, "these new technologies are revolutionizing the medical world. The simulators and scenarios used in our Clinical Simulation Center at Finis Terrae University are of the highest quality and realism."



From Left to Right: Albert Dougnac, MD, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Finis Terrae University; David Johnson, President, Laerdal Medical Americas; Roberto Salim, Secretary General, Finis Terrae University; Eliana Escudero Zúñiga, RN, Director of the School of Nursing at Finis Terrae University.

"Our Clinical Simulation Center is a dream come true for our nursing students," said Escudero Zúñiga. "It originated with the creation of an undergraduate course and has evolved to incorporate the highest standards of teaching with a reliance on simulation. Pam Jeffries and Johns Hopkins University's support of the creation of our Center has been invaluable: we now consolidate the teaching and learning of our students in an environment where they may acquire the necessary skills to develop quality work while respecting patient dignity and ensuring patient safety."

Finis Terrae University

The mission of the Clinical Simulation Center at Finis Terrae University in Santiago, Chile, is to support their Schools of Nursing and Medicine in vocational training. The modern four-story facility provides students with a safe and secure learning environment that fully integrates the use of simulation and true-to-life scenarios into a new teaching methodology that strengthens the values and principles of the university. There are currently 200 nursing students and 480 medical students enrolled at Finis Terrae, and the first graduating class of nurses will be awarded degrees in 2013. For more information, visit www.uft.cl

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