

'SESAM NEWSLETTER – MAY 2001

It is a great honour and privilege to be elected to the post of President of SESAM and in this newsletter I would like to set out an agenda. My first official duty is to pay tribute to the outgoing office bearers. All of us in high fidelity medical simulation are aware of the major contributions made by Per and Vimal. They both established simulation in Europe working very hard in an unknown field and it is to their credit that we have such a healthy medical simulation scene in Europe today. Although their broad achievements are well described in the literature it is the personal contact that I shall always appreciate and remember. When our centre was in its embryo stages they both gave help and advice freely and warmly. They welcomed others and ourselves into the world of simulation and treated us as colleagues from the start. It is on the basis of that spirit of mutual support, co-operation and common endeavour that our society enjoys its present ethos. I am sorry that I could not personally thank them both for their contributions but their legacy lives on and we all face the challenge of maintaining that spirit. That they are no longer actively involved in simulation is due to the heavy toll exacted from the vast amount of time and energy they both gave of themselves. The third outgoing office bearer fortunately remains with us as an active player in simulation and I am personally very pleased to be able to call on Chris Lussi's vast experience and wisdom in this area.

I would like to thank the large number of you who participated in the Annual Meeting in Stirling. A meeting can only be successful if the participants respond to the presentations, lectures and workshops by engaging in debate, exploring common challenges and forging links. I have returned from all the SESAM meetings held over the last four years with a renewed sense of enthusiasm. Our challenge as an executive committee, and my challenge as President, is to maintain that momentum and ensure that the enthusiasm and co-operation continue. This is why we have decided to publish a monthly newsletter. We feel that it is all too easy for that surge of creative energy arising from the meeting to be dissipated. We hope that this newsletter will allow us to keep in touch more actively and so keep that sense of progress and spirit of collaboration alive and well.

Details for submission are at the end of the newsletter. As regular features I propose the following:

Working Party News

This will give the chairs of the working parties the opportunity of keeping us all up to date with developments. It will also allow the formation of any new working parties. If you think that there is a topic that is not being addressed by the current working parties then this is your forum to recruit like-minded members. Details of the current working parties can be found at the SESAM website.

Record of Publications

The working group looking at this is collating a collection of articles published. You can help in one of two ways. Firstly, if you have submitted an article for publication let us know as soon as it has been accepted (No need to be modest). This lets the others members know of your area of interest and so can prevent projects beginning unnecessarily. It may also be a step towards some collaborative work.

Secondly, anyone who comes across an article related to medical simulation can cite it in the newsletter. It would be useful to add some comments so that other members of SESAM have a clearer idea of whether this is an article they would wish to pursue.

Next Year's Annual Scientific Meeting.

Thursday & Friday 10th & 11th May, 2002, Santander, Northern Spain.

Ignacio del Moral has kindly agreed to host next year's meeting. He has asked us for some assistance with the programme so this is your chance to suggest topics and speakers. This can apply not only to those topics you want to include, it can also apply to those you wish to exclude.

Collaborative Research

One of the aims of the working parties is to provide a forum for people with similar interests. This may lead onto collaborative research. I think that one of our strengths is the number of centres and the number of participants in courses. I know that we all collect feedback information from participants and I think that it would be useful to have a common set of questions that we can collect from all of our courses. Each centre can continue to ask its own questions but if we have a set of common data then we can use the volume of numbers as a marker. If you are interested then send in a set of questions you would like to include.

Secondly, many of us probably run similar scenarios. It would be interesting to compare performances, to see which areas are similar and which differ. While we still await a definitive behavioural marker system we could confine comparisons to technical components. For example, we run scenarios involving difficulty in intubation. It would be interesting to collaborate with another centre by standardising the scenario and the technical scoring system and comparing the findings. I propose a section entitled Scenario Research that will fulfil the above role.

Simulator centre research

One of the most effective ways of finding out what centres are doing is to look at not only publications but also presentations, grant applications, research fellow projects etc. So please submit details of these to the newsletter. This can also help give an idea of which centres may be likely to be able to participate in collaborative research.

The above sections are my suggestions, but it is our newsletter so if you have news, information or anything that you feel would be of interest to SESAM members then this is your forum.

I intend to distribute this newsletter monthly. If you would like to submit anything please do so by 4th June 2001. Send your articles by e-mail to simulator@scsc.co.uk or fax to 01786 446026.

Ronnie Glavin