Bulletin No. 1: A Message for All Our Healthcare Students

Arizona Simulation Technology & Education Center

March 19, 2020
Unprecedented times....

• Breathe...You...we are not alone.
It’s a new world....

• Every problem...every concern you have about your education, your degree, your course requirements, your credentialing, your clinical requirements, your rotations...is now being shared by millions of other students, institutions, and their families around the world.
New Solutions....

• We will solve these problems. We will come up with solutions. But that takes time. It takes consideration. And it may require some innovation. But our problems will get resolved.
We need you....

- The world has changed and so will the rules and regulations by which we will get you educated.
- We need to educate you faster and better than we ever did before.
- The world expects us to get you out into the healthcare system because we need you more than you could ever imagine being needed.
You will become the frontline....

• There has not been a crisis of this magnitude in healthcare education since World War II.

• The world will be changed by the Covid-19 Pandemic as much as it was by WWII.

• Most of us are too young to remember the impact of World War II but this pandemic will be as epoch-changing as it was.
• Until the Covid-19 crisis is relieved, we cannot risk working in classrooms, clinics, or ASTEC.

• Personal protection equipment is in short supply.

• We must rely on distance-learning and participation.

The UA Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, and Public Health has some of the best distance learning infrastructure and experience in the world!
ASTEC’s NEW MISSION...

- ASTEC needs to explore every avenue to replace whatever aspects of your clinical learning, training, and expertise that has been degraded or compromised by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- We also need to do that in a way that keeps you safe from contagion.
• Instead of “hands-on” training we need to switch to “minds-on” training.
ASTEC’s NEW MISSION-2

• If I can’t be there physically, can I be there virtually?

“Shall we go see a patient instead?”
Clinical Expertise

- How do I interact with patient?
- What do I ask about?
- What do I look for?
- What information or labs might I need?
- What skills do I need?
- How do I know I’m competent?
There are ways to practice...

• Can I take a history from the patient?
• Can I carry out a review of systems?
• Can I examine the patient?
What is ASTEC doing right now?

- Evaluating materials that can be used for distance learning, discussion, and engagement.
- Gathering and supplying the clinically relevant materials for distance-learning our faculty.
- Support our faculty and staff as they convert to on-line teaching and learning.
We need to think differently

CADAVER DISSECTION

VIRTUAL DISSECTION
We are exploring VR alternatives to physical simulation....
Medical gaming now gets serious....

• We are looking multi-player healthcare team-based gaming...
ASTEC’s Commitment

• We will look for *any* technology and *any* methodology (old or new) that bring the experience and learning gained at the bedside to you in whatever alternative fashion we can find.

• We will not compromise the health or well-being of our patients, staff, or students during the pandemic crisis.
Yes, we can!

- We are looking for ideas....
- We are looking for volunteers to help us research and test technologies and games....
- We are looking for those of you who want to join the fight and look for solutions rather than wait for answers.

Call 520 626-8585
or sign up at https://astec.arizona.edu/about/contact-astec