The Clinical Skills Education And Assessment Center

Overview—Ohio State’s Clinical Skills Education and Assessment Center is a cornerstone of clinical education for trainees interested in careers in medicine. The Center’s primary goals are to develop competent, caring healthcare professionals who support Ohio State’s Wexner Medical Center’s mission to improve people’s lives through personalized health care.

Within the 26,000 square foot Center are 14 patient encounter rooms, a large group meeting room and a new 18,000 square foot simulation space for procedures practice. The patient encounter rooms emulate actual exam rooms found in hospitals and clinics and feature space and technology for on- and off-site observation. A distinguishing feature of the Center is its integrated audiovisual system that digitally records encounters and stores them on a web-based server for review from office or home.

The Center’s environment enables medical students, residents, faculty, and other allied health professionals to practice their technical skills on procedures-based simulators, ranging from basic task trainers to high-tech human patient simulators. Students and residents also hone their professional and interpersonal skills by conducting histories and physical exams on standardized patients – individuals trained to simulate specific case scenarios. Standardized patients are an essential element of the education. These simulated interactions not only help trainees learn how to diagnose and treat patients, but also help to develop their communication skills. Valid, reliable assessment tools ensure students are ready for progressive levels of responsibility.

EARLY EXPOSURE AND HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS
The Clinical Skills Center provides trainees a low-risk safe learning environment in which to practice and hone their patient interaction and procedural skills throughout their medical training. Medical students begin coming to the Center early in their first year to practice taking patient histories and perform physical exam skills with standardized patients. Student-led interest groups organize hands-on procedural workshops on suturing, intubation and phlebotomy throughout the year. Other procedural practice sessions are heavily integrated throughout the medical school curriculum to help prepare students for working on actual patients.

ACCESS TO SIMULATION PRACTICE
There is growing awareness of the need for simulation to enhance skills acquisition and, ultimately, patient outcomes. The Clinical Skills Center provides students crucial hands-on experience and the opportunity for comprehensive and constructive feedback from their instructors and peers.

STATE-OF-THE ART FACILITIES
To accommodate the growing educational need, the Center recently expanded to add 18,000 square feet on the newly-created sixth floor of the Prior Health Sciences Library, which is fully equipped with advanced, high-end audio-visual and simulation technology.

THE NEW ADDITION HOUSES THE FOLLOWING SPACES:
- A new 3,000 square foot procedures lab
- Four virtual critical care and surgery bays with observation and control stations
- A surgery teaching laboratory
- Four technical lab and debriefing rooms
- An ultrasound room
- A 70-seat seminar room