



HALIFAX 6 CANADIAN HEALTHCARE SAFETY SYMPOSIUM

News Release

Oct. 19, 2006

Mobile simulation one of the STARS of healthcare safety symposium

Vancouver, BC – If you can't bring the medical trainees to the training institution, you can always bring the training institution to them. That's the underlying principle behind the development of the Alberta Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society (STARS) mobile simulation unit, a state-of-the-art medical training facility housed in a motor-home and containing a human patient simulator.

"Mobile/High Tech Simulation – Taking Simulation on the Road" will be the topic of a presentation by Dr. Greg Powell, president and CEO of STARS, at today's sessions for the Halifax 6 Canadian Healthcare Safety Symposium.

STARS is a non-profit, charitable organization providing emergency air medical transport to critically ill and injured patients in Alberta and communities in southeastern British Columbia.

The STARS human patient simulator program (HPS), the first mobile program of its kind in North America, is a unique and advanced emergency medical training program. The HPS mannequin simulates complex medical and trauma scenarios and has the ability to realistically mimic the human body.

This mobile program offers advantages in that it can reach rural health care providers throughout Alberta, southeastern British Columbia and the Northwest Territories. These individuals may otherwise be faced with the barriers of distance from teaching centres and the inability to leave the community at regular intervals to train.

"In the near future, it should not be necessary for critical care emergency health care providers to initiate invasive medical intervention without first practicing on a human patient simulator," said Dr. Powell.

Making health care safer and enhancing the overall quality of the health care system is the common goal uniting health care experts from across the country and around the world at the Symposium. The theme of this year's Symposium is "Safety management: changing the way we do things."

Dr. Powell's presentation takes place today between 2:25 p.m. and 2:50 p.m. at the Cordula and Günter Paetzold Health Education Centre at Vancouver General Hospital.

The STARS HPS mobile unit will be on display today from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. outside Vancouver General Hospital. On the other days of the Symposium, it will be available for viewing from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. outside the Sheraton Wall Centre.

The Symposium begins at 8:15 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 20 and runs until 4:15 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 21. Two pre-conference sessions take place on Thursday, Oct. 19: one on “Partnering for Patient Safety” at the Sheraton Wall Centre (8:45 a.m. to 5 p.m.); and the other on the use of simulation techniques, entitled “Advances in Healthcare Education for Safety” at the Cordula and Günter Paetzold Health Education Centre at Vancouver General Hospital (12:30 p.m. to 4:50 p.m.).

For more information, go to: <http://www.buksa.com/halifax>

To learn more about STARS, go to: www.stars.ca

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