



## HALIFAX 6 CANADIAN HEALTHCARE SAFETY SYMPOSIUM

### News Release

Oct. 19, 2006

#### **Practicing on plastic before people helps improve patient safety**

Vancouver, BC – Practicing on plastic before people, and especially in team situations, has been demonstrated to greatly reduce medical errors and improve patient safety in health care, according to Dr. Karim Qayumi, professor of surgery and director of the UBC- and Vancouver Coastal Health-based Centre of Excellence for Surgical Education and Innovation (CESEI).

Advancing patient safety through experiential learning and team training with the use of simulators will be discussed during a presentation today by Dr. Qayumi at the Halifax 6 Canadian Healthcare Safety Symposium in Vancouver.

Dr. Qayumi will be speaking on “High Tech Simulation - Your Imagination is the Limit” -- how CESEI has made great technological advances in procedural and team training. He will highlight how the use of simulators, such as surgical and endoscopy simulators, enable scenarios as simple as an everyday procedure, and as complex as a military catastrophe, to be replicated.

“With the use of simulators, we can train individuals on different medical issues before they treat live patients. We can also create situations in which they can work as a team. This enables them to be practice-ready. And this kind of training has been demonstrated to greatly reduce mistakes when they go on to treat live patients,” said Dr. Qayumi. “As a result, there have been significant improvements in patient safety in OR, ER, trauma bay, and disaster situations, among others.”

Students use simulators to learn not only surgery, but also anesthesia, trauma treatment, general medicine and team training – the latter in which Dr. Qayumi believes the greatest strides have been made.

“In the past, there had been no opportunity to work together in training scenarios. Instead, students worked in isolation. Now, when a problem occurs in real life, people know how to work together effectively,” added Dr. Qayumi.

The idea for using simulation in training comes from the aeronautic industry where significant reductions in errors were achieved after implementing this experiential learning approach to training.

“Previously, medical students went straight to treating patients. Now, for example, we have unlimited simulation opportunities for students to experience treating a person who is choking, before they treat a live person,” said Dr. Qayumi.

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

Halifax 6 Canadian Healthcare Safety Symposium which opens today in Vancouver. The theme of this year's Symposium is "Safety management: changing the way we do things."

Dr. Qayumi's presentation takes place today from 1:30 p.m. to 1:55 p.m. at the Paetzold Theatre at Vancouver General Hospital.

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 Paetzold Theatre at Vancouver General Hospital (12:30 p.m. to 4:50 p.m.).

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

To learn more about CESEI, go to: [www.cesei.org](http://www.cesei.org)

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