



VITAL ANAESTHESIA SIMULATION TRAINING



VAST Facilitator Course

Course director - Adam Mossenson

Perth, Western Australia

4-6 December 2024

**In conjunction with SJOG Midland Public and
Private Hospitals**



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Midland Public Hospital

Executive summary

Situation

A 3-day Vital Anaesthesia Simulation Training Facilitator Course (VAST FC) was successfully conducted in Perth, Western Australia, supported by and delivered in collaboration with SJOG Midland Public and Private Hospitals.

Background

This was the fifth time a VAST FC has been conducted with SJOG Midland, with the ongoing goal of building hospital-wide capacity for the conduct of effective simulation activities. Off the back of previous VAST FCs, a Simulation Support Team (SST) has been established at Midland. The SST now spearheads a co-ordinated approach to simulation activities across the hospital. This includes discrete programs focused on obstetric care (MOMS), paediatrics (PRAMS), recognising and responding to deteriorating patients (SIMMER), integration of international medical graduates into work life at SJOG Midland (MAPP), perioperative simulation and targeted in-situ training at the request of specific wards. The affiliated SJOG Murdoch Hospital kindly availed the MURTEC training space for Course. As a demonstration of reciprocity and collaboration, spaces were made available for SJOG Murdoch staff in the program.

Assessment

This VAST FC represented a successful extension of the ongoing work aimed at building capacity for and impact through simulation activities at Midland. In particular, Midland's Adaptation to Practice Program (MAPP) promotes the integration of near-peer colleagues in a facilitator role. This initiative is challenged by the periodic egress of junior doctor staff away from SJOG Midland. The conduct of a yearly VAST FC for SJOG Midland is a mechanism for engaging and building skills in the conduct of simulation activities in successive waves of junior doctors, fostering sustainable program planning and delivery. The VAST FC also was a wonderful opportunity to build links amongst caregivers, across hospital departments, and across SJOG sites. The SST will continue to foster these networks and nurture collaborative learning in our Community of Practice.

Recommendations

1. Conducting a yearly VAST FC is an important mechanism to enable the SST to strategise and plan sustainable simulation activities at SJOG Midland.
2. Engagement of past VAST FC participants as course facilitators should be encouraged as a mechanism for ongoing facilitator skill development.
3. Course participants should seek out reflective conversations on their facilitation performance as they apply their skills following the course.
4. The novel addition to the VAST FC learning curriculum, the Take Home Messages card game, should continue to undergo iterative refinement and complete integration into the VAST FC program.
5. Course participants can apply new skills immediately, for example during feedback conversations with trainees, in critical event debriefing, and in the conduct of simulation activities.

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Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge financial support from the:

- SJOG Midland Public and Private Hospitals
 - The Post-Graduate Medical Education Unit (PGME) at SJOG Midland
- SJOG Murdoch in allowing their in-kind use of the MURTEC facility
- Vital Anaesthesia Simulation Training (VAST) Ltd

Attendees

The pool of attendees was diverse, both in terms of clinical and location of practice. Participants were selected following an expression of interest process. There was intentionality in selection, particularly regarding junior doctors and nurse educators who are primed to engage in and support the ongoing conduct of simulation programs conducted by the Simulation Support Team at SJOG Midland.

Faculty			
Name	Professional role	Course role	Workplace
Adam Mossenson	Anaesthesia Consultant / Simulation Consultant	Course director	SJOG Midland
Joice Zachariah	Nursing / CE Sim	Facilitator	SJOG Midland
Julie Chave	Midwifery / CE	Facilitator	SJOG Midland
Jade Pike	Nursing / CE Sim	Facilitator	SJOG Midland
Bina Parekh	Anaesthesia Registrar	Facilitator	SJOG Midland
Nicole Ghedina	Emergency Medicine Consultant / Simulation Consultant	Facilitator	SJOG Midland

Participants		
Name	Professional role	Employer
Natalie Humphry	ED Educator	SJOG Midland
Kate Rey	Theatre Educator	SJOG Murdoch

Anna Carlson	Clinical Educator	SJOG Murdoch
Yvonne L'Auguille	General Surgery Clinical Educator	SJOG Murdoch
Aidan Dunnill	Anaesthesia registrar	SJOG Midland
Katy Monk	Emergency Registrar	SJOG Midland
Sean Bolger	Clinical Nurse Specialist	SJOG Midland
Mitchell Pratt	Junior doctor	SJOG Midland
Yan Seah Yuin	Junior doctor	SJOG Midland
Amy Yee	Junior doctor	SJOG Midland
Karla Mare	Junior doctor	SJOG Midland
Elise Ecker	Junior doctor	SJOG Midland
Ross Bowe	Junior doctor	SJOG Midland
Shelley Gower	Researcher / Academic	Curtin University
Donia Lal	Junior doctor	SJOG Midland
Faye Johnston	Emergency consultant	SJOG Midland

Venue, equipment, and budget

The VAST FC was conducted in the wonderful training facility of MURTEC at SJOG Murdoch. The space was kindly provided in-kind. MURTEC is a spacious, bright, and well-equipped training facility. Access for setup was only available from the morning of Day 1 of the course. It was wonderful witnessing the well-oiled facilitator team rapidly preparing two simulation rooms, two debriefing areas and group presentation spaces all within one hour. This flurry of activity was realised through dedicated preparatory efforts of the SST, supported by other VAST FC alumni - Julie (Midwifery CE) and Bina (Anaesthesia Registrar). Mannikins were provided by the team at MURTEC. The remaining simulation equipment and printing was brought by the SST. The concept of what was 'inside' and 'outside' the clinical simulation space was demarcated as usual during VAST's programs with tape on the floor. Course participants were given the opportunity to run technology using REALTi360 and ALSi equipment, both available at SJOG Midland/Murdoch sites. Course funding was provided by SJOG Midland through the PGME budget. There were no fees charged to course participants.

VAST Facilitator Course conduct

Participant pre-course preparation occurred with access provided to VAST's online learning platform. Modules cover core simulation theory, preliminary practice with advocacy-enquiry style questions, introduction to VAST's framework that supports observation and assessment of facilitation skills (the VAST FORM), and principles of simulation scenario design. There was excellent uptake and progress through this online learning, evident during the course as participants were familiar with key concepts and primed to maximise the opportunity for in-person practice. Participants were divided into four groups (A1, A2, B1, and B2) for the conduct of scenarios/debriefing. Each group was allocated a mentor. Groups were purposefully selected to include participants with a range seniority and clinical backgrounds. This allowed participants conduct scenarios with realistic team roles and dynamics. When facilitating/debriefing a scenario, each group flexibly selected participants or sought volunteers from the remaining participant pool. Within each group, all participants had opportunity to practice and experience the range of roles of the facilitator, including leading a debrief.

For simulation scenario design, participants groups were altered to combine those with similar backgrounds, i.e., those working in perioperative area, junior doctors, and the SJOG Murdoch educators. The intention behind this grouping was to establish what will hopefully be ongoing collaborative design of simulation activities in these respective areas. These groups and mentors were retained throughout the course for consistency. During Day 3 all groups had the opportunity to conduct their scenarios. End-of-day evaluations were collected using a QR code/link to an online form.

The Facilitator Course followed a 3-day format largely in-keeping with the time-table available in the VAST online resources. A there were minor modifications made:

- **Integration of the VAST Facilitation Observation and Rating Method (VAST FORM)** – The VAST FORM is a new addition to the learning resources within the VAST community. Following pre-briefing on its use, Parts 1-3 of the VAST FORM were sequentially introduced to support observation on facilitation performance. The VAST FORM was used by both mentors and peer-observers (course participants). Throughout facilitation practice, reflective learning conversations were held to help guide skill development, with data drawn from the VAST FORM used as the basis for observations made on facilitation. We are continuing to build our experience and optimise the use of the various elements of the VAST FORM throughout VAST FCs.
- **Integration of Take Home Messages** – We have developed a card game, Take Home Messages, to allow for exploration and practice of key debriefing approaches in an engaging and dynamic way that is conceptualised yet distinct from the conduct of simulation scenarios. We are piloting the introduction of Take Home Messages at the start of the Day 3 of the Course. Immediate reflection on this new addition to our program highlighted to importance of a ‘change of stimulus’ and the benefits of a lighthearted and rapid-fire nature where approaches discussed over the preceding days could be practiced.
- **Other Day-3 changes**– ‘Implementation planning’ and ‘Future opportunities’ were largely removed to make way for the new addition of Take Home Messages. A short penultimate session at the end of Day 3 was conducted to cover future opportunities and ways to continue to develop facilitation skills

Social activity

Breaks and meal-times provided a wonderful opportunity for networking, developing new relationships, and reinforcing existing connections.

Research

Course participants will be contacted offering recruitment into a study underway exploring the impact of the VAST FC conducted in collaboration with SJOG Midland.

Course evaluations and informal feedback

What participants liked:

Learning the behind the scenes of facilitation x 2
Getting straight into facilitating sim
Practicing debriefing x 3
Simulation skills and interactive discussions
Appreciated the effort gone into the course, diverse stimulus across the days
Advocacy enquiry - practising formulating the question x 2
Theory and application in actual sims being both participant and facilitator
The opportunity to discuss learner centred teaching and facilitation
Practicing facilitation simulations
Breaking down and getting to practise debriefing and starting to look at scenario design
The opportunity to practice in a safe environment x 3
Considering culture differences and how this effects debrief
Broad sim topics. Good level of challenge and complexity
Trying different roles, running and participating in sims
Trying out different roles in the facilitation role
Experiencing sims made by other roles, observing the debriefs
Running our own simulation having started from scratch
Running through a simulation I was involved in creating x 4
Able to learn and grow more
Having a go at debriefing which was very stressful but I had good support before and afterwards and it felt less daunting.
Building confidence

Areas for improvement:

Perhaps break out groups would allow more individuals the opportunity to practise advocacy inquiry, vs practicing this as a large group
More pre-brief examples e.g., task trainer, equipment
Nothing. Really well organised and skilfully delivered.
Instructions for simulation design
More detail on the progressing through the VAST FORM
Nothing. Learning complex skills will always be a little overwhelming, but have to start somewhere.

Key learning:

Choose interesting points and focus on them. Don't always give positive reinforcement
Using the structures provided to guide debriefing x 4
Maintaining situational judgement when running simulation sessions x 2
Too many!
Maintain humility
Looking at specifics during the scenario to discuss as debriefer
I won't be perfect at this imminently
Debriefing steps
The AI question x 4
The debriefing structure
Scenario design and debriefing framework
Strategies to facilitate discussion.
It's ok to be uncomfortable and practise debriefing
Linking to real life
The requirement to practice debriefing.
Timekeeping and pre brief
Focus on role allocation
Continue to work on non-technical skills
Be more confident / practice to build confidence
Different debriefing techniques
Advocacy inquiry questions in other settings
Aiming aim appropriately. Practice debrief as much as possible.
How sim is seen by participants vs facilitator
Flexibility during scenario delivery
Stay calm and be confident
The game at the start was great to go into debriefing techniques a bit more and get strategies I can use. Definitely needed the hour to get the most out of it.

Comments for facilitators:

Terrific very lovely!
Really good / supportive / great / amazing / engaging / excellent / helpful / experienced

Great presentation of information
Very nice learning atmosphere created and maintained
Well run, transition between activities was smooth
Excellent thank you
Excellent job. Thank you and well done. I have been extremely impressed with everyone's skill and knowledge
All experienced facilitators each very helpful
Thanks very much!
Enjoyable
Different facilitators with different experiences to share
Thank you for being so supportive

Other comments about the VAST Facilitator Course:

Love!!!
So happy to be part of this
This course was amazing!!! Thank you very much!
Great course

Recommendations

The continuation of recurring VAST FCs for SJOG Midland is an important component underpinning sustainable conduct of simulation activities across the hospital. The SST benefits from expanding capacity and depth of experience with simulation across the hospital. This allows for easier and more impactful conduct of all simulation activities. In particular an important component integral to the design and delivery of MAPP is the integration of near peer educators. We are planning repeated conduct of a VAST Facilitator Course late in 2025. The following recommendations stem directly from the experience of conducting this course in Perth:

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Course Photos















