



# VITAL ANAESTHESIA SIMULATION TRAINING



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## **VAST Facilitator Courses – Perth, Australia**

*August & October 2022*

**Course report by – Dr Adam Mossenson**

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## Executive summary

### *Situation*

The Vital Anaesthesia Simulation Training (VAST) Facilitator Course (VAST FC) was utilised to build capacity for conducting simulation at SJOG Midland Public and Private Hospitals, Perth, Western Australia.

### *Background*

VAST was first piloted in 2018. Since then, VAST's courses have been conducted with participants from over 28 countries. VAST's Facilitator Course (VAST FC) introduces learners to the core simulation theory and develops skills for the design, delivery and debriefing of immersive, interdisciplinary simulation scenarios. The Simulation Support Team at SJOG Midland comprises a simulation consultant and two simulation clinical educators. They work in close conjunction with the hospitals Learning and Development and Post-graduate Medical Education units. The Simulation Support Team has developed several initiatives for improving quality and safety of care at the hospital, leveraging the benefits of simulation. These include Midland's Obstetric Multi-professional Simulation (MOMS), Midland's Adaptation to Practice Program (MAPP) and Simulated Medical Emergency Response (SIMMER). To successfully conduct these programs, there was a need to develop a wider base of healthcare providers adept at simulation facilitation.

### *Assessment*

Two VAST FCs were delivered in the second half of 2022. For the MOMS project, facilitator training was delivered over four half-day sessions. For MAPP and SIMMER, the routine two-day VAST FC was conducted. Both courses were delivered successfully, albeit with specific challenges relating to caregiver availability, venue limitations and ongoing impacts of the COVID pandemic.

### *Recommendation*

SJOG Midland has an expanding group of highly motivated educators that are enthusiastic about integrating simulation into their 'core business'. This drive must be supported by experienced mentors within the hospital that allow these emerging facilitators to continue to develop skills and confidence in a supported and scaffolded fashion. Periodic VAST FCs should be conducted to continue to build the numbers of caregivers at SJOG who are skilled and confident in the use of simulation. For future course planning, certainty with room booking and unrestricted access throughout the duration of a course is essential.

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## Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge the support for this facilitator training from:

- St John of God Midland (SJOG) Public and Private Hospitals
- Staff within SJOG Midland who supported this training, particularly those within:
  - Learning and Development (L+D)
  - Post-graduate medical education (PGME)
- Volunteer facilitators who generously gave their time to help conduct these courses.

## Course attendees

<b>MOMS faculty development - Facilitators</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Professional role</b>
Adam Mossenson	Anaesthetist
Jade Pike	Peri-operative nurse
Joice Zacharia	ICU nurse
Darryn Sherry	Anaesthesia trainee
Julie Chave	Midwife
Anthony Klobas	Anaesthetist
Kevin Chan	Anaesthetist
<b>MOMS faculty development - Participants</b>	
Sara Seery	Peri-operative nurse
Sara Truslove	Peri-operative nurse
Shannan Francis	Peri-operative nurse
Premala Paramanathan	Obstetric Consultant
Arpita Ghosh	Obstetric Consultant
Ihab Khalil	Obstetric Consultant
Codey Holker	Midwife / ED Nurse
<b>MAPP / SIMMER faculty development - Facilitators</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Professional role</b>
Adam Mossenson	Anaesthetist
Jade Pike	Peri-operative nurse
Joice Zacharia	ICU nurse
Joseph Ong	Anaesthetist
Nicole Stanley	ICU Consultant
Nicole Ghedina	Emergency Medicine Consultant
Sunita Kantavil	Emergency Medicine Consultant
<b>MAPP / SIMMER faculty development - Participants</b>	
Chamodi Pilippua Hewa	Junior Doctor
Nicole Tan	Junior Doctor
Shiuan Hui Yan	Junior Doctor
Owain Chandler	Junior Doctor
Taryn Rose	Junior Doctor
Jerry Abraham Alex	Emergency Medicine Trainee
Jess Edmonds	Nurse
Lauren Mengler	Anaesthesia technician
Michelle Gonzalez	Anaesthesia Trainee
Nurhayati Lubis	Anaesthesia Consultant
Predrag Stanojlovic	Anaesthesia Consultant

## Venue and equipment

Access to a venue proved to be challenging for both sets of facilitator training. Regarding the MOMS faculty development, it was decided to run the sessions within SJOG Midland. There is a small, dedicated simulation room within the hospital, however, access to this room is highly competitive. We had to be flexible and adapt to available space; presentations and simulation sessions were conducted across a variety of the training and conference spaces within the hospital. MAPP facilitator training was conducted in the co-located Curtin University Midland Campus. This building has a wealth of space, multiple and dedicated simulation rooms. The initial course dates needed to be changed due venue booking issues. This space in the Curtin building perfectly accommodated the needs of the VAST Facilitator Course and should be considered as a venue for future VAST training. All equipment for conducting the courses was available within the repertoire of simulation equipment available at SJOG Midland.

## Concept overview of future simulation programs at SJOG Midland

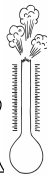
# MOMS



### Concept

To develop and implement sustainable and recurring multi-professional obstetric team training that is integrated into current academic programs and workflow. A multi-professional group of facilitators across midwifery, obstetrics, anaesthesia, and peri-operative nursing will be involved all stages of program design and implementation. Ongoing facilitation and debriefing of sessions will be conducted by this multi-professional team. Activity will be supported by the Simulation Consultant and Simulation Clinical Educators. MOMS sessions will focus on common clinical obstetric emergencies as well as high-stakes rare events. There will also be a dedicated focus on building skills and confidence of junior anaesthesia, obstetric, and intensive care medical officers, in recognition of their crucial role in their unsupervised early response to obstetric emergencies afterhours.

# SIMMER



### Concept

To offer regular multi-disciplinary simulation training sessions for caregivers at SJOG Midland Hospital focusing on the early recognition and response to the deteriorating patient. SIMMER will offer a safe space to develop clinical and behavioral skills and to build understanding of effective processes for team function during common and high-stakes clinical events. In addition, SIMMER will function to improve patient safety, and feed directly into the hospitals quality and risk system if gaps are found.

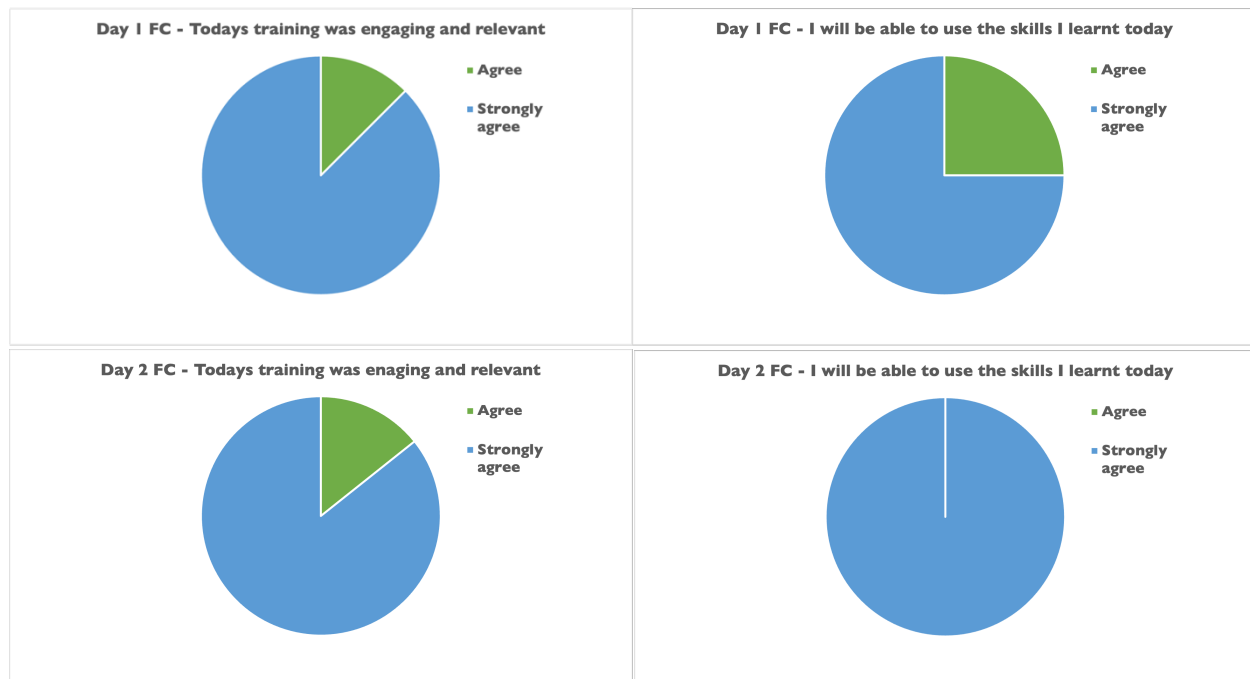
# MAPP



### Concept

Over 80% of SJOG MPPH junior medical workforce are international medical graduates (IMGs). MAPP sets out to provide an integrated and flexible set of teaching and learning opportunities, focussing on the support of IMGs and international nursing graduates (INGs) as they adapt to living and working in a new environment. MAPP will utilise a multi-faceted approach to optimising the IMG/ING experience as they enter the workforce at SJOG MPPH. Simulation sessions will be facilitated by near-peer mentors, working in collaboration with the Simulation Support Team. MAPP sessions will begin in concert with existing orientation processes as well as providing regular opportunities for engagement in inter-disciplinary simulation activities and workshops.

## Summary of participant course evaluations and informal feedback



What are the three most important messages you will take away from VAST FC Day 1?

- Having a structured debrief helps with time keeping. Having a pre-brief avoid confusion during the simulation. Have a plan B when tech fails
- Framework for debrief. Protecting the lead participant. Importance of design aspects
- Useful skills in debriefing. Importance of simulation for IMG. Great exposure and introduction towards VAST
- Non-judgmental inquiry. Importance of culture differences. Structured approach to de-briefing
- Always ask for help. Communicate effectively and concisely when facilitating and leading a simulation and in a real-life situation. Always use neutral language and inclusive language during a debrief
- Creating a culturally safe environment. Writing down key objectives and points. Debriefing effectively and safely
- The structure to design a scenario. Having good judgment debriefing. Debriefing frame
- Be aware of the cultural differences between learners, and allow space for everyone to learn in a safe environment-Ask open-ended, advocacy-inquiry style questions-Keep a strict eye on the time
- Debriefing is not about the debriefer but the participants of the scenario & how they are going to change practice. Validating someone's reactions after a scenario allows them to actively engage in the debriefing. Silence helps everyone to gather their thoughts

How could the VAST FC Day 1 be improved?

- Nothing
- Include more simulation practice
- When we do the ice breaker at the beginning include some cultural info as it is relevant later in the day
- I thought the timing of sessions and breaks was really well constructed and I'm looking forward to day 2!
- I personally could have used a little more time just to work on facilitating the first simulation

- Nil ++

Do you have any other comments regarding VAST FC Day 1?

- Well paced
- Well organised and engaging
- It was run very well and smoothly. There was a good balance of lecture content and hands on experience and the food was great
- Not really. I think it was a really well run course, lots of practical application. I feel a lot more confident with sims after this, and hope to work on my facilitator skills in the future.

What are the three most important messages you will take away from VAST FC Day 2?

- How to develop a sim scenario. Keeping things simple still resulted in good learning points. Incorporating real life experiences in debrief
- Be flexible as a facilitator. Faculty pre briefing is essential for the outcome of the scenario. Protect the lead participant
- Make your scenarios relevant and realistic. Pre-brief with as much clarity as possible. Debrief with respectful enquiry
- Reminder to keep learning objectives relevant and relatable. Detailed pre-briefing smoothen the simulation scenario process. Improving on skills to facilitate debriefing
- Be respectfully curious. Be kind and open to suggestions. Take a breath and a moment if things aren't going according to plan
- To de-brief with the challenges of the lead participants first. To try and find the objectives in the participants own reflections (and change the course if this can't be done). Have a good pre brief with the facilitator team prior scenario

How could the VAST FC Day 2 be improved?

- Running for one more day to be able to practice more
- I think it was run very well. However, perhaps the post-debrief sessions could have been shortened by a bit
- May need a little more time for the scenario design and an extra printed sheet to write out our character design prompts and background instead of having to cut them out/use scrap pieces of paper
- Great, love the schedule and planning of the VAST
- More time but doable with more practice
- Nil ++

Do you have any other comments regarding VAST FC Day 2?

- No. The whole course was really fun and well run. Thanks!
- Good to be able to put to practice all the concepts in such a short period of time
- Thank you!

## Challenges and lessons learnt

Whilst these courses were delivered in a high-resource context, many of the challenges were consistent with delivery of training in low-resource settings. Finding course dates that matched caregiver availability was a challenge. Likewise, ongoing furlough due to COVID restricted numbers on any given day during the course. The novel approach of delivering the FC over four half-day sessions added additional complexity and for some meant continuity of learning was difficult. The anecdotal impression from facilitators was that skill development and confidence was harder to manifest across these half day sessions, compared with the intensive 2-day course.

## **Future directions**

There is great enthusiasm for simulation activities at Midland. For MOMS, MAPP, and SIMMER there are plans underway for 'curriculum' development. Likewise, the Simulation Clinical Educators have developed a session plan for orchestration of simulation activities for the remainder of 2022 and into 2023. The MAPP sessions will be combined with Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) workshops. These VTS workshops aim to use art interpretation to develop critical thinking and reasoning in healthcare providers. Interested educators will undergo VTS facilitator training early in 2023. VTS workshops will supplement immersive simulation scenarios.

Simulation facilitator numbers at SJOG Midland will continue to be bolstered by annual facilitator training. This will be supported by PGME and L+D. As simulation sessions are rolled out, expressions of interest to participate in facilitator training will be collated. Emerging facilitators will be mentored by the Simulation Support Team. For peace-of-mind and promotion of course quality, it is essential that future courses can be planned in a venue that locks in a booking well in advance and allows unrestricted access throughout the duration of that booking.

**Appendix I – Course Photos**





