SimWars:
The Ultimate Test of Clinical Management, Communication and Teamwork

Valerie K. Sabol, PhD, ACNP-BC, GNP-BC
Robert Blessing, DNP, ACNP-BC
A new, innovative andragogical strategy that was designed to mirror real life intra-disciplinary teamwork in managing a patient with an acute clinical deterioration.
Documented throughout the literature are the advantages and disadvantages of using high-fidelity simulation and/or standardized patients.

We combined both...and as a team-based competition:
- Recognition and appropriate treatment of medical situations is an important patient care skill
- Team building, communication and safety
Process

Step 1
• Preparation

Step 2
• SimWars
  • Debrief

Step 3
• Evaluation
Preparation: Student Learning Objectives

- Medical knowledge
- Patient care
- Systems-based practice
- Interpersonal and communication skills
- Professionalism
Questions to Guide the Scenario:

- What are the signs and symptoms of sepsis?
- What should student do to manage sepsis?
- How should student interact with other team members?
- How should student counsel patient and family?
Preparation: Participants

Panel Selection (multi-disciplinary experts)
- Medical (sepsis) experts
- Simulation experts
- Pedagogical experts

Preparation
- Expert Panel
- Students
SimWars

Unfolding Case
- Standardized patient → High fidelity simulator

Evaluating Team Performance
- Winning team based on benchmarks met
  - Set triggers (medical focus)
  - Expected behaviors (communication focus)
Debrief

Participants
- Student Team Members
- Expert Panel
- Faculty

Unfolding case debrief
Evaluation

Did we meet our SimWars objectives?
- Medical knowledge
- Patient care
- Interpersonal and communication skills
- Professionalism
- Systems-based practice
Lessons Learned

- Individuals
- Student Teams
- Expert Panel
- Faculty
Next Steps

Should we do this again?
- What could we do better next time?

Team Strategies and Tools to Enhance Performance and Patient Safety
TeamSTEPPS® (http://teamstepps.ahrq.gov/)

Record Session
- Teams to view their performance
- Teams to view performance of other teams

Smaller Teams
- Define roles
Special Thanks

Gene Hobbs, CHT
Duke University
Medical Simulation Coordinator

Jeff Taekman, MD
Director, Duke University Human Simulation and Patient Safety Center
Questions?