

From the Director

Education plays a key role in CIMIT's mission, which is to bring together clinicians, scientists, and engineers to improve patient care using novel technology. Our educational activities range from the classroom to individual mentoring, and a weekly Forum to facilitate collaboration.

With this issue, we are pleased to tell you how the CIMIT Simulation Group continues to play a key role in education. The VIRGIL™ development team was invited by the Army's Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center, TATRC, to participate in a demonstration of advanced technologies for the White House Medical Unit and the Interagency Council.

VIRGIL™ is a Chest Trauma Training System that received the US Army's "Top Ten Greatest Inventions of 2003" award this past June. Chest trauma is the second leading preventable cause of death on the battlefield, and the leading preventable cause of death in civilian trauma. This computerized mannequin system provides a solution to the Army's need for a realistic, tactile simulation of chest tube insertion. Step-by-step instructions and augmented reality feedback enable medical personnel to learn the procedure safely and effectively.

The group traveled to Lithuania this year to participate in the 2004 MEDICAL exercises Central Europe (MEDCEUR). "In the Spirit of Partnership for Peace", they led an exercise designed to train US, NATO, and partner nations to respond to disaster relief and mass casualty situations. This exercise marks the first major military training event for Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania since becoming part of NATO in March.

We are pleased that the Simulation Group has been at the forefront in medical training. Working together, we are able to translate innovative ideas into medical practice, and deliver to patients better, safer, and more cost-effective care.

John A. Parrish, MD



Left: Gerald Moses, PhD, Chief of Clinical Applications, Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center, TATRC; Steven Dawson, MD, and Feroil Vernon of The SIM Group arriving at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

VIRGIL™ at White House: TATRC Education Day



Above: Stephen L. Jones, PhD, Principal Deputy Assistant in the Office of Health Affairs, Department of Defense; Colonel Ronald K. Poropatich, MD, US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, TATRC; Steven Dawson, MD, The SIM Group, CIMIT Program Leader for Simulation, Radiologist, Massachusetts General Hospital.



Left: Rear Admiral Kenneth P. Moritsugu, MD, MPH, Deputy Surgeon General of the United States, and Feroil Vernon, The SIM Group.

Right: William Lang, MD, Deputy Director of the White House Medical Unit, oversees group listening to discussion of VIRGIL™.





Colonel James Gilman, MD, FACC, Commander of the Walter Reed Health Care System, discusses VIRGIL™ with Steven Dawson, MD.



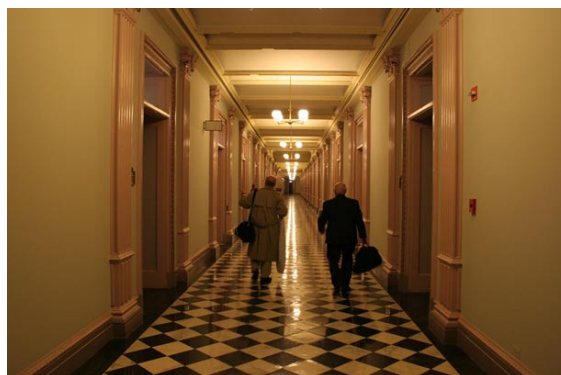
The Smallpox Inoculation Training Program, SITU, was also presented at this educational meeting. When President Bush announced in December 2002 that 500,000 military and civilian personnel would soon need to be vaccinated for smallpox, a team of physicians realized that the potentially risky smallpox inoculations had not been practiced in the United States since 1972.

The CIMIT Simulation Group sent a proposal to the Department of Defense for a simple, effective method to train both military and public health personnel in the proper technique of administering the smallpox vaccine. SITU was delivered on time, and under budget.

The Preventative Medicine Team at the Army's 2nd Infantry Division in Camp Casey Dongducheon, Korea, used SITU during the Summer of 2003.



Dawson, wearing a Red Sox Nation sweat shirt, and Ryan Bardsley prepare VIRGIL™ for the trip home.



Drs. Dawson and Moses at the end of the day, walking down the hall of the Eisenhower Building.