

Chair of Simulation and Innovation at NorthShore University HealthSystem

Grant Type: **Dollar support**

Dollar Amount: **\$1.5 million**

Foundation Name: **Alvin H. Baum Family Fund**

What was your objective with the grant or initiative?

The objective of the Alvin H. Baum Family Fund Chair of Simulation and Innovation, led by NorthShore Emergency Medicine Physician, Ernest E. Wang, MD, was to strategically leverage a recently established \$10 million, 13,000-square foot simulation laboratory and enhance clinical skills, drive multidisciplinary research, improve patient outcomes, and foster industry and community partnerships. Nationally, the first of its kind, the Chair catalyzes students, physicians, staff, and community first responders to be continuous learners. It also improves patient safety and clinical outcomes, and inspires new curriculum development.

What were the results of this grant or initiative?

In 2015 and 2016, 430 courses in medical and surgical simulation labs were conducted. Clinical outcomes included medical floors—where nurses received training—that experienced a drop in Code Blue occurrences; improved skills that led to earlier placed rapid responses; and infection rates that decreased in postsurgical patients. Furthermore, emergency medicine lab training has improved proficiency at procedures. The NorthShore Internal Medicine Residency Program collaboration led to the CONSULT program, which improves students' communication with consultants and advanced care planning.



Why would you say this grant or initiative had outsized impact?

The lab established the first simulation course in Illinois and the first simulation course in the history of emergency medicine. In 2015, a program in the infant special care unit launched to help train parents of special needs children with their medical equipment, such as tracheostomies or feeding tubes. Hospital administration has made the lab a key stopping point for insurers when they visit the facility to demonstrate how the lab contributes to training and patient safety.

The Chair of Simulation and Innovation also was key to generating legitimacy and visibility for NorthShore's simulation program. NorthShore then committed funds to build the new Grainger Center for Simulation and Innovation, bringing in other donors to name the lab and fund other programs. The Alvin H. Baum Family Fund has funded a few simulation lab initiatives in Chicago, and the Fund appreciates the importance of a dedicated teaching and learning specialist who designs immersive, authentic, multidisciplinary curricula to further the educational experience; improve patient care, safety, and quality; and foster best practices.

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