Educational Lecture 1

Simulators and the Future of Endoscopic Training

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Karen L. Woods

Interest in the use of simulation for acquiring, maintaining and assessing skills in gastrointestinal endoscopy has grown steadily over the past decade. Recent guidelines from endoscopy focused organizations such as the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) have also encouraged the use of endoscopic simulation training and it is now mandated during training by residency and fellowship accreditation organizations in certain jurisdictions such as the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) United States.

In November 2017, as her presidential initiative, Dr. Karen Woods, with Dr. Ken Wang, the National Institute of Health (NIH) and ASGE co-sponsored an EndoVators Summit at the ASGE Institute for Training and Technology in Downers Grove, Illinois to define the role and value of simulators in the future of endoscopic training. Over 70 thought leaders in simulation research, endoscopic education and training, and simulator development, including key decision makers from industry, gathered to review the current state of endoscopic simulation and discuss the role simulation could play in endoscopic training. Today’s talk will provide an overview of the summit findings, competency assessment of endoscopic skills, and suggestions for future simulator development, and simulation-related education and research.
Karen L. Woods

Dr. Woods graduated medical school at the University of Missouri in 1983 and completed her GI fellowship at University of Texas Southwestern, Dallas in 1989 and an Advanced Endoscopy Fellowship 1990 at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. She was subsequently full-time faculty at Baylor College of Medicine for 10 years, Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine, and Director of Therapeutic Endoscopy at Ben Taub Hospital. In 2000 she made the transition to private medical practice at Houston Methodist Hospital, and in 2016 became employed by the same hospital system. Over the years, she has served on many ASGE committees, including the Governing Board and Foundation Board, and is currently the President of the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy 2017-18. She received the Distinguished Service Award from ASGE in 2015. She has also served in several capacities for the American College of Gastroenterology including Chair of the Education Committee and Chair of the Abstract Selection committee. Dr. Woods has served on the FDA GI and Urologic Devices Panel continuously from 1993-2016 in various capacities, as a voting member, consulting member, and panel chair. She has received numerous citations as “Best Doctor” in Houston, the state of Texas and America. In 2018 she was honored as a “Distinguished Endoscopist in Houston” by the Texas Interventional Endoscopy Group (TxIEG).

As ASGE President, she hosted an Endovator’s Summit on “Simulators and the Future of Endoscopic Training”, to explore current training models and methods of assessing endoscopic competence, identify the inherent deficiencies in the current model, and define skills that would benefit from simulation training for both trainees and practitioners with a desire to learn new skills. Her talk today will discuss the summit findings and consensus on the needs for future endoscopic training and competency assessment.