



## SCOTTISH PATIENT SAFETY RESEARCH NETWORK QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

### SPSRN

Scottish Patient Safety Research Network (SPSRN) is a collaboration between research teams from the Universities of Aberdeen, Dundee, and St Andrews. The aim of the Network is to enhance capacity in patient safety research in Scotland, building on two existing academic centres. In 2003, the [Patient Safety Research Group](#) was established at the University of Aberdeen. Research focuses on a wide range of issues related to patient safety (e.g. adverse event rates, non-technical skills, and safety climate) within acute as well as primary care medical environments. [The Social Dimensions of Health Institute \(SDHI\)](#), also established in 2003, is a collaborative venture between the Universities of St Andrews and Dundee. Their patient safety research focuses on clinician engagement in quality improvement; different models of quality improvement adopted in the UK, and the initiation, spread and sustainability of change. More information about the Network can be found at [www.spsrn.ac.uk](http://www.spsrn.ac.uk)

March 2011

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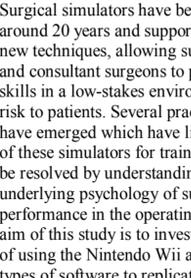
**This section provides details on select SPSRN research projects that are currently being conducted.**

**This week the topics featured are non-technical skills in anaesthetic assistants and using a games console to train surgeons...**

### SPOTLIGHT ON:

#### Interviews with anaesthetic assistants about non-technical skills in the peri-operative period.

Dr John Rutherford, [john.rutherford@nhs.net](mailto:john.rutherford@nhs.net)



Anaesthetic assistants work together with anaesthetists to provide safe anaesthesia. This MSc research project aims to ask anaesthetic assistants about their work and how they use non-technical skills in the peri-operative period. There is no framework of non-technical skills specific to anaesthetic assistants and this project aims to contribute to the development of such a taxonomy.

#### Can Nintendo Wii be used to train surgeons? Funded by the Richard Benjamin Memorial Trust

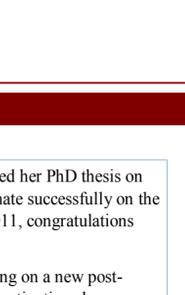
Dr Steven Yule & Dr Tim McAdam, University of Aberdeen [s.j.yule@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:s.j.yule@abdn.ac.uk)

Surgical simulators have been used for around 20 years and support training in new techniques, allowing surgical trainees and consultant surgeons to practice their skills in a low-stakes environment without risk to patients. Several practical challenges have emerged which have limited the use of these simulators for training. These may be resolved by understanding the underlying psychology of surgical performance in the operating theatre. The aim of this study is to investigate the merits of using the Nintendo Wii and different types of software to replicate the skills training required by surgeons to conduct laparoscopic surgery.



### A SELECTION OF SPSRN 'IN PRESS' PUBLICATIONS

- Arfanis, K., Fioratou, E., & Smith, A. F. (in press). Safety culture in anaesthesiology: basic concepts and practical application. *Best Practice & Research: Clinical Anaesthesiology*.
- Fioratou, E., Pauley, K., & Flin, R. (in press). Critical thinking in the operating theatre. *Theoretical Issues in Ergonomics Science*
- Flin, R. & Patey, R. (in press) Non-technical skills for anaesthetists: developing and applying ANTS. *Best Practice and Research: Clinical Anaesthesiology*.
- Charles, K. McFee, L. McCann, S. (in press) A quest for patient-safety culture: contextual influences on patient safety performance, *Journal of Health Services Research and Policy*.
- Hogg, G. Stewart, F. & Ker, J. (in press) Over the counter clinical skills: enhancing the profile of the pharmacists' role through safe acquisition of clinical assessment skills, *Clinical Teacher*.



### SPSRN NEWS



Cakil Sarac defended her PhD thesis on hospital safety climate successfully on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2011, congratulations Cakil!

Cakil is now working on a new post-doctoral project investigating charge nurses' leadership and safety.

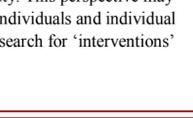
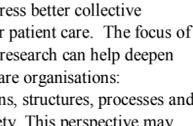
### UPCOMING SPSRN MEETINGS

#### Reducing Harm: Improving Healthcare, 2011

*Suttie Centre, Aberdeen on March 31st 2011.*

The 2011 'Reducing Harm, Improving Healthcare' conference will be hosted by both Robert Gordon University and Aberdeen University. The conference will include keynote presentations on human factors and medication safety, together with a wide range of workshops and poster presentations.

<http://www.rgu.ac.uk/areas-of-study/subjects/health-professions/news-and-events/events/reducing-harm-improving-healthcare-2011>



#### Making health care safer: learning from social and organisational research

*St Andrews, 27th—28th June 2011.*

Social Dimensions of Health Institute



A two day conference to explore key questions facing researchers, practitioners and policy-makers: questions that address better collective learning, sustainable quality improvement and safer patient care. The focus of the conference is on how social and organisational research can help deepen our understanding of what makes for safer health care organisations:

organisations in which the dynamics and interactions, structures, processes and cultures are conducive to both staff and patient safety. This perspective may challenge notions of patient safety that emphasise individuals and individual behaviour change, and moves us on from simply a search for 'interventions' that can be applied in the hopes of improving care.

**This section provides details on upcoming meetings run and supported by SPSRN members**

### EXTERNAL CONFERENCES OF INTEREST TO PATIENT SAFETY RESEARCHERS

#### 55th Annual Meeting of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society September 19-23, 2011, Las Vegas.

The Human Factors and Ergonomics Society Annual Meeting is the primary gathering of researchers and practitioners in the field of human factors/ergonomics (HF/E) and related areas.

<http://www.hfes.org/Web/HFESMeetings/2011annualmeeting.html>



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