



Corewell Health Clinical Simulation

Annual Impact Report

2024-2025



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Message from the Directors



I hope this annual report provides you with a glimpse of what the Clinical Simulation Department and collaborators have been able to accomplish over this past academic year.

We are extremely thankful for the support and opportunities provided and look forward to the next year where we can continue this great work.

This year we saw the completion of the Corewell Health Care Center Building-275 Michigan St. and were able to open the new Corewell Health Clinical Simulation Center within it. With the ability now to support all disciplines at Corewell Health West, and the capabilities within the new center, we have seen tremendous growth. We look forward to an upward trajectory in this year. Our team and educators throughout the system provide invaluable education to team members in Corewell Health, and beyond. We're proud to help support the institution's mission to improve health, instill humanity, and inspire hope.

Pam Jager, MBA BSN RN
Director of Clinical Simulation

This past year marked an exciting new chapter for Clinical Simulation at Corewell Health. The launch of our new Clinical Simulation Center has transformed the way we train our healthcare providers not only across the system, but across the entire West Michigan Region.

Our center has become an essential hub for advancing world class surgical education, team-based training, and patient safety. The integration of high fidelity simulated operating rooms, advanced technologies such as the da Vinci Surgical System, and access to a bioskills wet lab has elevated both the quality of care we deliver as well as the culture of continuous improvement across our surgical teams.

I am incredibly proud of what our team has accomplished and excited for the future of clinical simulation and innovation at Corewell Health.

Eryn Hart, DO

Surgical Director of Clinical Simulation



Our Mission & Vision

Corewell Health Clinical Simulation Mission Statement

The mission of clinical simulation at Corewell Health West is to transform patient safety, quality, education and research through experiential learning and technological advancements in a controlled training environment.

Corewell Health Clinical Simulation Core Value Statement

This summer, our team came together to craft a value statement that reflects what we believe about the role of simulation and the kind of learning environment we strive to create. To us, this statement is not just words, we use it as our guiding principle. The statement is used during every simulation pre-brief to ground participants in the purpose, expectations, and values behind the simulation experience. Having a clear, shared value statement helps foster consistency, psychological safety, and a culture of growth across all our simulation offerings.

“In the Corewell Health Clinical Simulation department, we believe in the value of collaboration, respect, and continuous learning. Together, we can innovate, inspire, and create a supportive learning environment where every voice is heard.”

Corewell Health Clinical Simulation Vision

Learning Environment

- Offering a multi-modal simulation environment utilizing an interdisciplinary approach to education
- Cultivation of compassionate, skilled, and innovative healthcare professionals
- Creating an environment that fosters collaboration
- Striving for healthcare education that champions the highest standards of patient safety and quality improvement

Resource Development

- Stewardship and accountability of resources
- Fostering quality, safety, and efficiency through collaborative partnerships
- Leadership in innovative use of simulation-based education technologies for healthcare education
- Providing enhanced community outreach
- Establishing leadership, expertise, and support
- Investing in technology, education, and infrastructure to empower healthcare learners to deliver high quality, accessible healthcare

Clinical and Academic Excellence

- Mission/vision driven
- Enhance teaching to inspire learning, and promote improved patient outcomes
- Incorporate hospital strategic plans into the simulation environment
- Leveraging simulation as a teaching modality, utilizing cutting-edge technology to drive strategic plans
- Cultivate healthcare teamwork while advancing high reliability principles
- Providing simulation as an option to rehearse complex cases for optimal patient outcomes

Evidence-based Practice

- Employing simulation best practices
- Cultivate an environment of continuous quality improvement
- Leveraging technology to enrich learning, teaching, and research endeavors
- Employing evidence based clinical decision making and evaluation methods to uphold best practices

Clinical Simulation by the Numbers

Our simulation center plays a vital role in advancing clinical education and supporting institutional growth. With two locations serving a wide range of learners from over 47 departments and service lines, the center fosters hands-on, experiential learning that enhances clinical skills and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Beyond its educational value, the center is also a powerful recruitment tool. Survey data from incoming residents shows that simulation facilities significantly influence their decision to apply and rank our institution, underscoring the center's importance in attracting and retaining top-tier talent.



22,787

The total number of instructional hours delivered by our department



5,010

The total number of learners served in our simulated experiences



>47

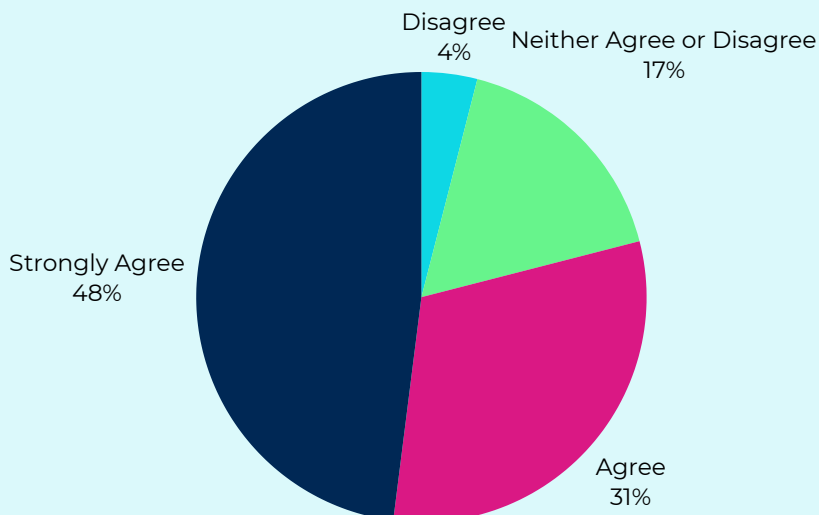
The number of departments or service lines who utilized our department services



2

The number of clinical simulation centers

The Importance of our Simulation Facilities



During our Postgraduate Year 1 Orientation Skills Day, incoming residents were asked how important simulation and simulation facilities were in influencing their application and rank decisions. An impressive **79% responded in the affirmative**, with 48% indicating "strongly agree" and 31% indicating "agree."

This clearly shows that our simulation program is not only a valuable educational tool but also a key factor in attracting top-tier talent to our institution.

Simulation Innovation

In alignment with Corewell Health's mission to improve health, instill humanity, and inspire hope, the Clinical Simulation Department provides programming that reflects the organization's core values: Collaboration, Compassion, Clarity, Courage and Curiosity. Below, we highlight some of our standout courses that best exemplify these values.

Collaboration

GME-Simulation Partnership: This past year, with the restructuring of the simulation department outside of the Office of Medical Education, we deliberately developed collaboration and new processes with our Graduate Medical Education colleagues to continue to support and serve their needs in meaningful ways. With the expansion of our surgical simulation capabilities, we have deepened collaboration with programs like Orthopaedic Surgery, General Surgery, Cardiovascular Disease, and Plastic Surgery. We have also broadened our in situ offerings with Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and Family Medicine. This partnership has brought meaningful, hands-on learning directly into their clinical environments.

However, none of this would be possible without our incredible faculty champions and the many hands behind the scenes who make it all happen. The energy, creativity, and commitment they bring to this work has helped us build innovative and impactful learning experiences.

Simulation is a key part of how we train and prepare our learners, not just for clinical proficiency, but for teamwork, communication, and confidence in high-stakes situations. We are proud of what we have built together and even more excited for what is to come with this partnership.



Interprofessional Opportunities: With the opening of our new simulation space, we've expanded our ability to support interprofessional and collaborative learning events. For example, our department now hosts Scrub Tech orientation in a fully simulated operating room environment, providing learners with hands-on experience in a realistic setting. We also host sessions of the Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) certification, a credential that demonstrates proficiency in the critical skills needed to resuscitate newborns. These sessions are especially valuable for nursing and other care team members who play a vital role in those first moments after birth.

Collaborating with Industry: In addition to internal opportunities, we have also expanded our efforts to support key health care industry partnerships. More specifically, in the past year we have contracted with Zimmer-Biomet, Medtronic, Stryker and are currently working with several other national companies who want to utilize our space and services. In providing service to the surrounding community, we have active contracts with the Michigan Society of Hospital Medicine, Emergency Care Specialists, University of Michigan-West, GVSU, Munson Medical, and Grand Rapids Allergy.

3,861

Total number of GME learners that attended simulations

15,012

Total number of learning hours for GME learners

>25

Number of GME programs that used our services

Simulation Innovation

Compassion

The Hospice and Palliative Care Residency includes a series of simulations focused on goals-of-care conversations and serious illness communication. Participants engage in these scenarios using the REMAP framework, which helps guide empathetic, honest, and supportive discussions with patients. Utilizing standardized patients, learners can practice and refine these skills in a safe, supportive environment before applying them in the clinical setting.



Clarity

Healthcare is inherently complex, and one of the most effective ways to understand key policies and procedures is through hands-on practice. Our team uses simulation to refine organizational processes and clarify expectations across disciplines. For example, incoming residents and fellows receive training on informed consent procedures, ensuring they are prepared for real-world conversations with patients. We also support surgical services by offering courses on procedural sterile technique. Additionally, our growing in situ simulation offerings help teams navigate critical scenarios, such as Internal Medicine's in situ simulations on code responses and stabilizing a patient in an outpatient setting, until additional support arrives.

Courage

At its core, simulation requires courage—the courage to be vulnerable, to acknowledge areas for growth, and to seek support in the pursuit of excellence. Our team fosters this environment by creating safe spaces where learners can take risks, make mistakes, and build confidence. Scenarios such as trauma responses, neonatal resuscitation, and emergency stabilization in outpatient settings demand quick thinking and decisive action, all examples of clinical courage. Over the past year, we've hosted a variety of high-intensity simulations, including Mass Casualty Incidents, trauma scenarios, maternal codes and PICU transport drills. Each of these experiences reinforce the value of courage in the face of complex, high-stakes challenges.



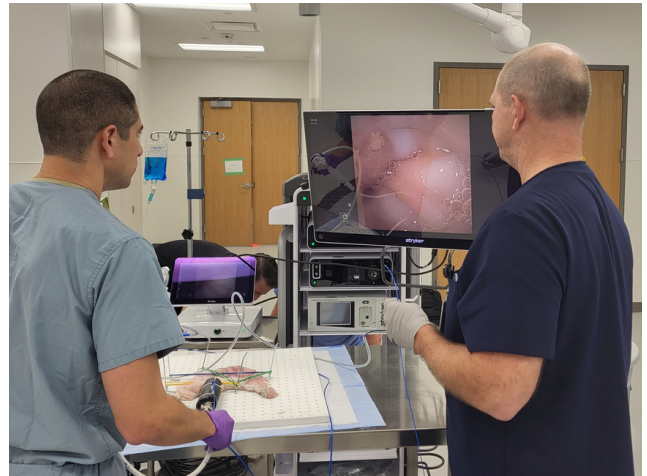
Simulation Innovation

Curiosity

Adding Bioskills to Corewell: Over the past year, we've brought cutting-edge procedures and hands-on training directly to Grand Rapids with the launch of Corewell Health's own wet lab. Located right on the Medical Mile, this state-of-the-art facility makes it easier for teams to fit training into their busy schedules, encourages cross-departmental collaboration, and ultimately supports better patient care. Departments including Acute Care Surgery, General Surgery, Neurosurgery, Orthopaedic Surgery, and Plastic Surgery have already used the space to practice low-frequency, high-acuity procedures, without ever leaving our system. This addition has significantly expanded both our course offerings and our capacity to support advanced clinical education.

With our new bioskills facility, our simulation team was able to offer an ASSET course right here at Corewell Health for the first time. The ASSET course, or Advanced Surgical Skills for Exposure in Trauma, is a one-day, cadaver-based course focused on surgical exposure in trauma, particularly in areas like the neck, chest, abdomen, pelvis, and extremities. Providing this course contributes to the readiness of our surgeons as part of our Level 1 Trauma Center. The ASSET course is only offered at a limited number of approved sites nationwide. Becoming a host site requires meeting strict criteria, including access to cadaver labs, qualified instructors, and institutional support. Ultimately, this makes Corewell Health a premier educational destination for surgical faculty and learners.

Corewell Health gastroenterologists utilized our resources to perfect the specialized POEM procedure which would bring significant cost savings to our patients and institution alike. Additionally, this procedure is an alternative to surgery and minimizes the recovery time for our patients, a benefit that cannot be ignored. Performing POEM requires highly trained sub-specialists and access to specialized equipment, which reflects a high level of institutional capability.



da Vinci Surgical System: Finally, this year our simulation center added the da Vinci robotic surgical system. This constitutes a significant step forward in surgical learning and innovative technologies available at our center. The system allows learners to explore robotic assisted surgery in a safe but realistic environment. This directly supports Corewell value of curiosity by encouraging exploration, and discovery.

Community Outreach



Advancing Equity & Inclusion in Orthopaedic Surgery

On October 11-12, 2024, Corewell Health was honored to host the organization's first ever Perry Initiative event. According to their mission, the Perry Initiative is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring young women to pursue careers in orthopaedic surgery and engineering. Through hands-on outreach programs like the Perry Outreach Program (POP), high school, college, and medical students—especially women—get the opportunity to explore these fields through mock surgeries, engineering experiments, and mentorship from professionals. Ultimately, the initiative aims to address gender disparities in orthopaedics and engineering by building early interest and confidence through immersive, skill-building experiences.

This two-day event welcomed over 50 local high school women to explore the future of orthopaedic surgery, guided by experts from Corewell Health. Participants engaged in hands-on activities, gained exposure to surgical techniques, and connected with mentors. All of this was part of an effort to inspire the next generation of women in medicine.

Mini-Med School GR²O

The simulation department hosted the second annual Grand Rapids Generating Representation and Opportunities (GR²O) in Health Care in collaboration with the Research and OME teams. This is a two-day pilot program for juniors and seniors attending Innovation Center High School. GR²O is designed to introduce underrepresented students to careers in health care and gain a deeper understanding of administrative, operational and clinical roles. Students who participated were introduced to a variety of health care career paths with an emphasis on educational sessions, observational and hands-on learning.



48

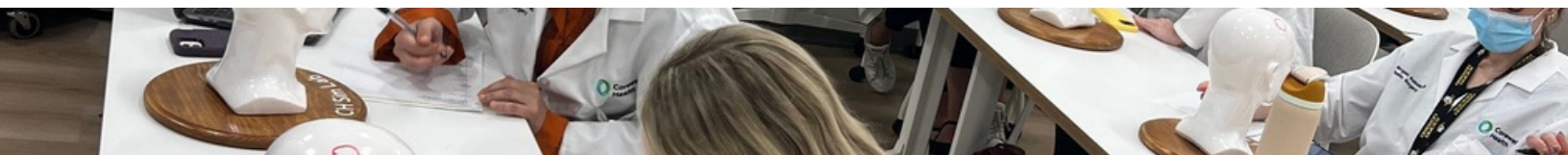
Number of
unique tours

137

Total tour hours
by our team

Connecting Communities Through Guided Tours

We have conducted 48 tours for both internal and external audiences—including Michigan Business Leaders, local news outlets, GVSU Leaders, Stryker, the Corewell Health Graduate Medical Education department, Corewell Health compliance department, and so many more.

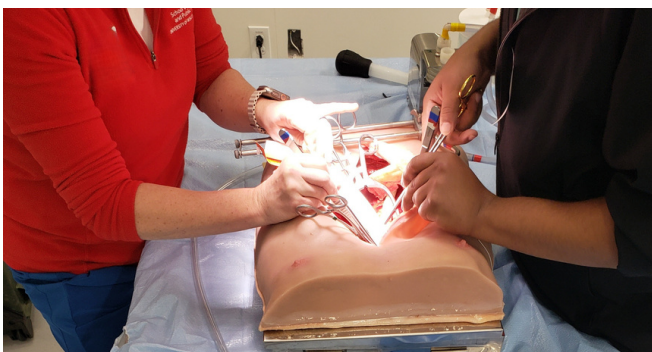


Community Outreach

Vascular Surgery Future Fellows

On May 2-3, 2025, the Corewell Health Heart and Vascular Institute sponsored the annual Vascular Surgery Future Fellows Program. The event was proudly hosted by the Corewell Health Clinical Simulation Center and generously supported by the Brown Tassell Foundation and W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc. The course was led by Dr. Robert Cuff with combined efforts from the Corewell Health simulation team and the Cardiovascular Event Specialist.

This intensive two-day course was designed to inspire and support general surgery residents who are considering a career in vascular surgery. With a significant shortage of vascular surgeons projected in the U.S. by 2030, the program plays a vital role in raising awareness and building confidence among future specialists. By offering hands-on experience and expert mentorship, the initiative aims to strengthen the pipeline of skilled vascular surgeons and ensure continued excellence in patient care. All 8 student attendees “strongly agreed” that this was a valuable learning experience.



Improving Clinical Care through In Situ Simulation

One of the most powerful aspects of simulation is its ability to uncover practical challenges and spark meaningful change. Feedback we received following a series of simulation events in the AGP clinic, described the meaningful impact in situ simulation can have for patient safety and professional development. See the feedback below:

“From this and spring AGP simulations we have learned and been able to change: - Nebulizer grab kit (instead of getting the new machine and then tubing and then the albuterol) -Call lights! We used to be confused which room the call light was coming from in the new space due to large size and limited visibility- now we are able to recognize the light will ring only above the hall it is coming from, then the lights above the room direct us to the lights. We were also able to get the phone display in the workroom changed to display our patient room numbers (1-20), as opposed to building room numbers (8055, etc), which we do not use to identify rooms -We have also improved our supplies- we used to not have the suction machine with the connection to clean collector and machine already in place, and we did not readily have smaller French catheters for deep suction. These are now always stocked.”

Thank you to our Donors!

We are incredibly grateful for the generous donations from the organizations listed below. Their continued support has enhanced our simulation center and directly impacted the quality of training and education we provide.

\$101,334

Arthrex Arthroscopic
Tower, Arthrex [direct]

\$7,552

Various in-kind product
donations for VSFF, WL Gore

\$140,000

Suture grant, Ethicon

\$15,000

Grant for VSFF, WL Gore

\$37,000

OR positioning devices, Surgical
Services SSIP

\$65,000

Mobile C-arm (used),
Radiology [in kind]

\$260,000

Virtamed Arthroscopic
Simulator, Ortho SSIP

\$14,000

Operating microscope
(used), Corewell Health
East [in kind]

\$14,368

ASSET course partial costs, Surgical
Services SSIP

Total contributions - \$654,254

Future Directions

Empowering Educators: Launching our Facilitator's Resources

In the fall of 2025, we will launch our online Facilitator's Course and Handbook. This comprehensive set of facilitator resources will support consistent, high-quality simulation delivery. This resource will give educators guides, checklists, and best practices to improve learner engagement and outcomes in clinical simulation.

Strengthening Safety: Developing our QSE-Simulation Partnership

In the coming year, we aim to strengthen our collaboration with the Quality, Safety, and Experience (QSE) team. As a simulation team, we have committed to recognizing and documenting latent safety threats through Corewell's ERS system to enable proactive solutions to detected problems. This partnership will allow us to align simulation with system-wide safety initiatives and drive meaningful improvements in patient care.

Seeking Excellence: Preparing for National Accreditation

We are preparing to apply for simulation program accreditation through both the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH). Achieving these accreditations will affirm our commitment to excellence, align us with national standards, and elevate the quality and credibility of our simulation offerings across the organization.

Advancing Metrics: Developing a Holistic Approach to Data Collections

We are expanding our approach to evaluation by collecting more holistic data on learner performance, experience, and outcomes. These insights will help us refine our offerings and demonstrate the impact of simulation on clinical practice.



Simplifying Access: A more Streamlined Event Request Process

To improve access and efficiency, we're working on a more streamlined simulation request process. Our goal is to make it easier for departments to request, plan, and participate in simulation events, ultimately saving time and enhancing collaboration.

Thank You!

We are incredibly grateful to our system leadership and the Simulation Advisory Council for their ongoing support, guidance, and dedication to advancing simulation-based education. Their leadership has played a key role in shaping our progress and helping us make a meaningful impact on the education and training of our Corewell Health team.

As we look ahead, we're excited to take the next steps as a unified Clinical Simulation team—building on our successes, expanding our reach, and continuing to innovate in support of exceptional patient care.

Want to Learn More?

Discover more about our simulation center and available resources through the following links:

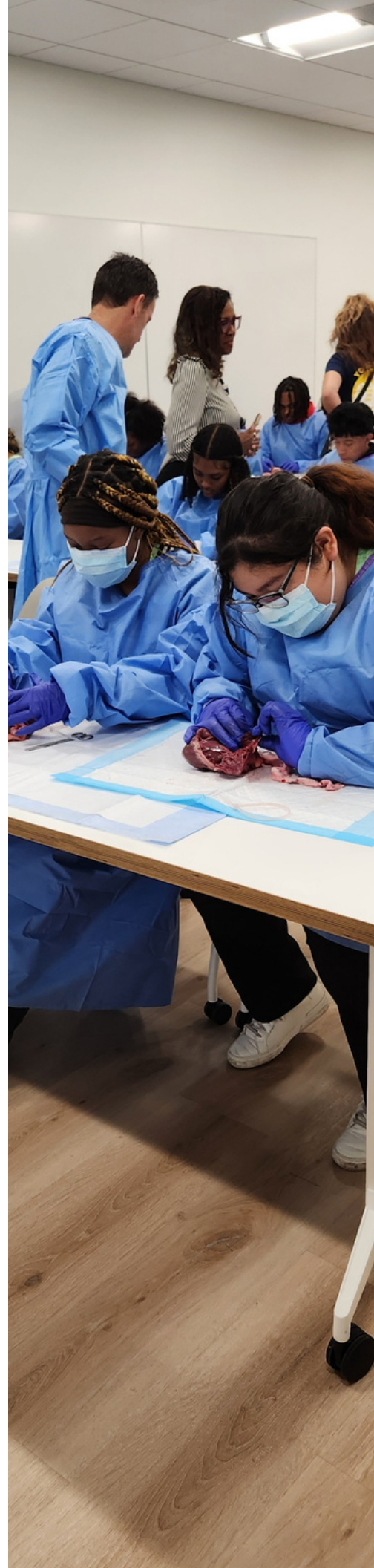
- [Clinical Simulation on SharePoint](#)
- [Clinical Simulation in Corewell Health West Michigan \[Video\]](#)
- [Clinical Simulation at the Doug Meijer Medical Innovation Building \[Video\]](#)
- [WZZM 13: Corewell Health opens high-tech medical training lab with virtual reality, robotics](#)
- [MLive: High-tech training center brings virtual reality operating rooms to Corewell Health](#)
- [WWMT: Corewell opens simulation center in Grand Rapids for immersive healthcare training](#)

Contact Us:

☎ 616.732.6247 [Director]

🌐 <https://corewellhealth.org/simulation/west-michigan?tabContent>

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