The Role of a Simulation Champion in Facilitating Clinical Simulation Sessions in Ophthalmology

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Introduction

Simulation training in ophthalmology is critical due to the precision and risk associated with intraocular procedures. Traditional methods are limited by clinical exposure and patient safety concerns. The simulation champion emerges as a pivotal figure in ensuring simulation fidelity, alignment with learning objectives, and operational success of such training environments.

Objectives

- Evaluate the role of simulation champions in three clinical scenarios
- Assess learner feedback and identify recurring themes
- Propose strategies to institutionalize the simulation champion role

Methods

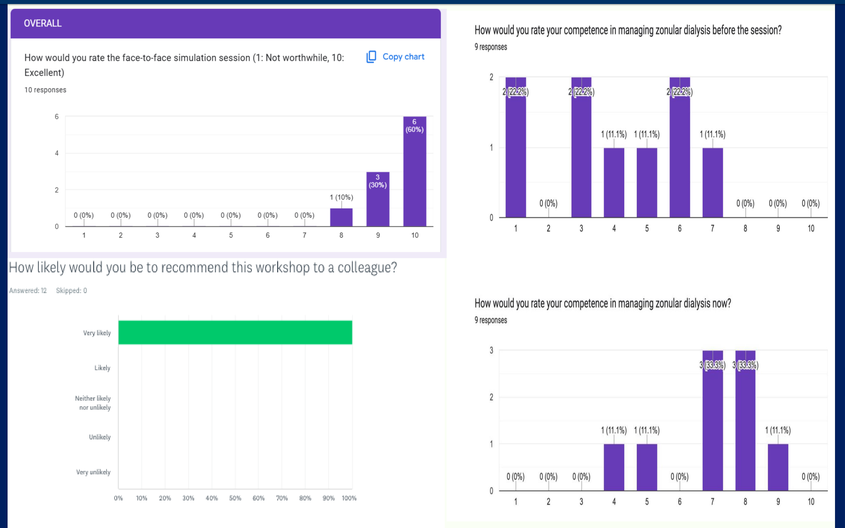
Three workshops for trainees/fellows were held in 2024:

- Cataract Complications (08/11)
- Endophthalmitis (27/09)
- Zonular Dialysis (13/12)

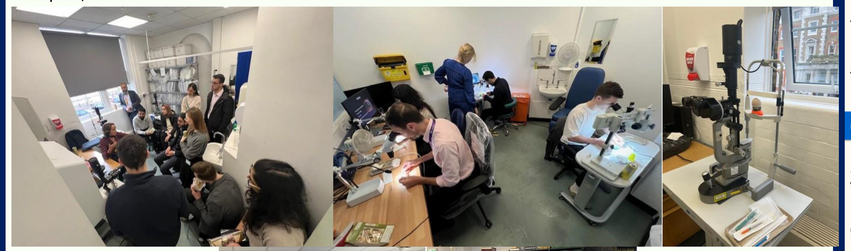
All sessions included:

- Pre-briefing
- Scenario-based hands-on simulation
- Post-session debrief and anonymous survey

Participants included ophthalmology trainees (ST1–ST7).



Graphs showing feedback received from sessions run by the Simulation Champion at King's College Hospital, London



Photographs from various simulation sessions run by King's



Results

Key findings from 29 participants:

- 100% found sessions relevant and useful
- 95% valued hands-on experience the most
- 85% mentioned realism as a highlight
- 30% requested demo-based pre-session guidance

Participant quotes:

"Sim sessions are the most effective part of my training."

"The champion ensured we had a realistic and smooth experience."

Champion Contributions

- Scenario Design: Tailored to stage of training
- Technical Operation: Setup of machines and phaco systems
- Real-time Facilitation: Adjusting pace and coaching
- Debrief Leadership: Guiding reflection and insight
- Institutional Advocacy: Promoting inclusion in formal teaching

Conclusion

Simulation champions are critical to the structure, delivery, and effectiveness of clinical simulations in ophthalmology. Their influence spans pedagogy, logistics, and learner support.

****Recommendations:****

- Formal recognition of role

- Funding for training and development

- Integration into surgical curricula

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