

Sim Center in progress

By Lindsay Mahaney
Staff Reporter

Work is continuing on the University of Toledo's Interprofessional Immersive Simulation Center, which broke ground over the summer.

Mary Smith, senior associate dean for graduate medical education, said the center will be an innovative, safe learning environment.

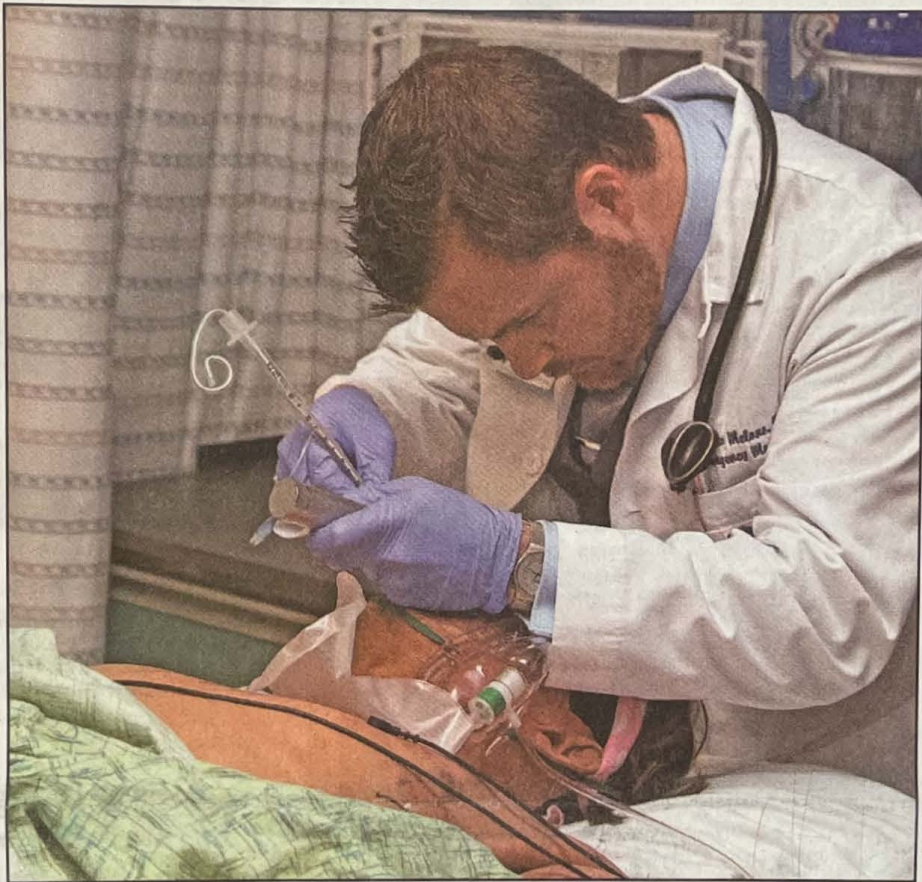
"The principles behind this are to let people learn in a safe environment," Smith said. "And if we make a mistake, which you know novice learners do, we can just reprogram the simulator."

Jeffrey Gold, chancellor and executive vice president for biosciences and health affairs, said the center will help teach basic skills to students before they enter the field. The simulators, which are currently in use in other locations on campus, allow learners to practice surgical procedures.

"In previous days, learners used to get their experience at the bedside initially and sometimes at the patient's expense," said Gold. "Those days are over now."

The center will house technology that places students in a real-life setting simulating a doctor visit. Participants must perform on a mock patient as they would a real patient.

Cristina Alvara, clinical simulation and education resident assistant, said the center will be valuable from a medical education standpoint.



BOB TAYLOR / IC

Andrew Melone, serving his residency in emergency medicine at the University of Toledo Medical Center, performs an intubation during a simulated emergency scenario.

The new technologies being incorporated, such as iPads and virtual reality equipment, are a new form of learning the medical world needs to appreciate, she said.

"Our generation, this is the kind of language we use," Alvara said. "You know, if you don't know something what's the first thing you do? You Google it."

Alvara said the space will continue to grow when phase two of the IISC is completed, allowing more

new technology to be included. One of the newest features in the system is a virtual reality simulator that lets students step into a three-dimensional setting where it appears they are actually performing surgery.

"We're in 12,000 square feet right now," Alvara said. "The new building is going to have approximately 60,000 square feet. With the three elements that we have down here, which is medical simulation, virtual reality, and of course the surgi-

cal component."

Besides medical students, Gold said, the center can benefit nursing, pharmacy, engineering, visual performing arts, astronomy and other students.

"The technology and the software are tightly tied into engineering," Gold said. "The technology that we're using is very applicable in astronomy in the planetarium and other areas. We are working with the people from the museum to do

UT now responsible for full \$36M of project cost

By Lindsay Mahaney
Staff Reporter

The University of Toledo is now responsible for the full \$36 million cost of the new simulation center project on the Health Science Campus.

Originally the costs for the Interprofessional Immersive Simulation Center were intended to be shared between UT and ProMedica, a regional health system that operates several hospitals in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. According to the original plan, the university was to put forth \$18 million and ProMedica was going to match that amount.

"They were going to put money into the construction and we were going to put money into the construction," said Jeffrey Gold, chancellor and executive vice president for biosciences and health affairs. "Then last spring they decided strategically to not proceed with that model. But that is not to say that they will not consider that in the future."

Tedra White, director of media relations for ProMedica, said the two organizations are maintaining an ongoing discussion on the possibility of future collaboration.