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Back-to-Back Conferences Highlight Clinical Simulation

Laura Goldbaum, RN, MS, NP
Monday November 19, 2007

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Celeste Villanueva, CRNA, MS
(Laura Goldbaum)

Newark, Calif. — Uneven and inadequate teaching methods fall short of student needs, UCSF School of Nursing Professor Patricia Benner, RN, PhD, FAAN, FRCN, said at the Nov. 1 Magic in Teaching II Conference at the Hilton/Newark Fremont.

Three "apprenticeships" — intellectual, practical, and ethical, which were included in the Carnegie Foundation National Nursing Education Study, need to be part of an integrated teaching method that includes patient-focused teaching based on clinical cases, Benner said. She added that she strongly discouraged "teaching to the NCLEX" exam and advocated a broader education for nursing students.

Nursing educators from around the state gathered at the conference, which was followed by the Bay Area Simulation Collaborative's 1st Annual Clinical Simulation Conference on Nov. 2. Both conferences highlighted clinical simulation, a fairly new teaching modality in nursing that will soon become the standard of practice because it encourages critical thinking, leadership, sound judgment, and effective interpersonal communication.

Presenting at both conferences was Celeste Villanueva, CRNA, MS, assistant professor of nursing, director of the Health Science Simulation Center, and director of the nurse anesthesia program at Samuel Merritt College in Oakland, Calif. Villanueva presented a history of simulation at the Magic in Teaching II Conference and served as a panel member at the Clinical Simulation Conference during the presentation "Innovations in Simulation Centers: Exemplars of Partnerships."

Laura Goldbaum, RN, MS, NP, is the editorial director of NurseWeek California. To comment, e-mail editorCA@nurseweek.com.

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