

MaineHealth

## MaineHealth Knowledge Connection

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Costas T. Lambrew Research Retreat 2022

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### Implementing Uniform Curriculum to Increase Efficiency and Access to Simulation

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## BACKGROUND

- Clinical Learning Environment Review (CLER) announced requirement of communication of serious adverse events training for all house staff.
- CLER did not prescribe the method for training.
- GME leadership previously requested more equitable access to simulation for all trainees.
- Sim Center capacity didn't allow for additional program-specific courses.

## A NOVEL APPROACH

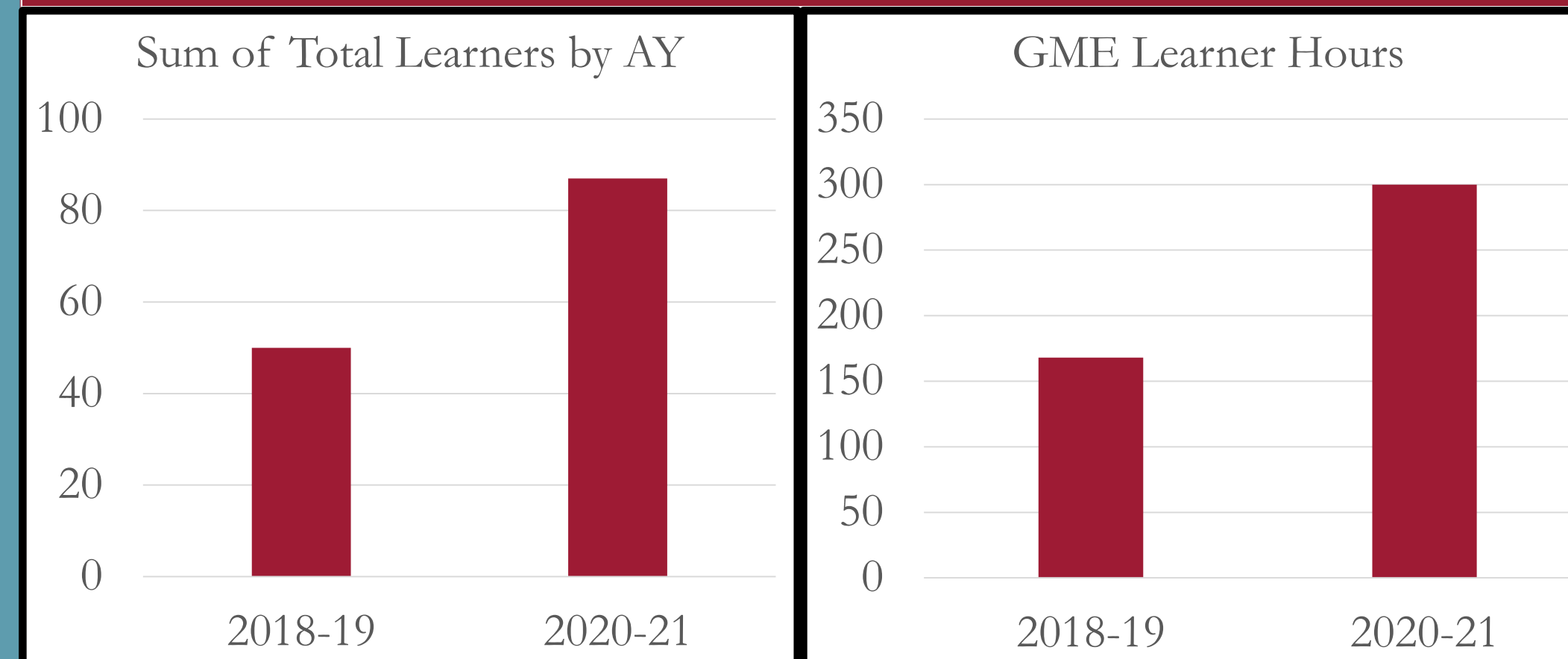
- Using Standardized Patients (SPs) is effective in improving communication skills.<sup>1</sup>
- Conducting SP training can be cost-prohibitive in terms of time and labor.
- Demands of current curriculum created a need for an innovative and more efficient approach to meet new CLER requirement.

## METHODS

- SP staff agreed to pilot a “Uniform Curriculum” concept.
- SP staff met with each program to determine total number of learners and cadence in which they needed to complete the requirement.
- Standardized SP events were scheduled, each with 8 available learner spots, 2x/every other month.
- Scenarios were identified that were based on actual malpractice claims, one with pediatric variant universally applicable for all learners.
- SP staff partnered with faculty to create course materials including: generalized scenarios, didactic content, a video exemplar, and debriefing rubrics.<sup>4</sup>



## DISCUSSION



- Previously, 14 of 26 GME programs had formal simulation training embedded in their existing curriculum.
- Only six had training to meet the new CLER requirement.
- SP staff cast, trained, and facilitated six unique events for 50 learners during the AY 2018-19.
- In the pilot, AY 2020-21, SP staff successfully conducted training for 87 learners, across all GME programs.<sup>1, 4</sup>

## LESSONS LEARNED

- Manual attendance tracking proved cumbersome for sim staff. We are in search of a more efficient registration tool.
- Priority registration should be given to smaller programs so all spots are not utilized by bigger programs.
- Conducting SP training can be cost prohibitive so training a core group of SPs to be utilized repeatedly, created cost reductions.

## COVID CONSIDERATIONS

- Piloting this new format during Covid-19 created challenges with attendance and required a transition to virtual learning.
- Although there were challenges with a virtual platform, learners still expressed the value of participating in ongoing learning and having access to simulation to enhance education.
- Due to unpredictable staffing demands, attendance issues were more numerous than anticipated.

## CONCLUSIONS

- Providing regularly-scheduled, discipline-neutral courses with open registration created efficiencies.
- Uniform Curriculum increased access to simulation without significant impact to the Simulation Center's capacity.
- This model presents opportunities for expanded access to Simulation in areas like; point of care ultrasound, telemedicine or other more advanced communication training.