

SIMTEC NEWSLETTER

Vol.1 (2)

Welcome

I am very pleased that we were able to successfully launch the SIMTEC Project at JIBC in October. The weather was sunny, people came from across the world, the country and the province to attend the launch and it was wonderful to see so many people interested in participating in this exciting project. Thank you!

While most of our partners were able to attend, as is always the case, a few of you were unable to attend. I hope that this Newsletter will keep you up-to-date with our project – don't hesitate to call or email for additional information.

Next Steps

Planning has already begun for further enhancements to the SIMTEC website. Over the next month the website will be expanded to include regular updates to keep you informed of our progress, related news and areas of interest between issues of our regular Newsletter. As well, the portal for the Expert Working Group (EWG) will be finalized and members will be able to login and comment on the EWG Discussion Board. Our SIMTEC Facebook page is now up and running and can be found through **Simtec Project – JIBC**, (<http://simtec.jibc.ca/node/14>). You can also follow us on Twitter at [@SimtecProject](https://twitter.com/SimtecProject).

We have been reviewing the excellent and varied input we received during the EWG session a few weeks ago. This information was incredibly helpful in assisting our Exercise Development Team pull together the scenario for our first pilot exercise, now scheduled for January 2012 (please see the Summary of Key Findings on the next page). We will be recruiting 24 senior decision makers from first response organizations in Metro Vancouver to participate in this initial exercise. If you are interested in participating in the exercise please let

me know! As we firm up the initial scenario we will be asking you to contribute any real-life/similar situations you are familiar with to help us ensure that our exercise is as realistic as possible.

Work has already started on enhancing the internal capacity of the B. Rix Simulation Centre at JIBC to accommodate our research needs. Video capability is being added to the main discussion room. By the end of 2012 the JIBC ExPOD system will allow us to export our exercises to any destination in the world with high speed Internet access; a very exciting proposition which will permit other EOC sites to actively participate.

Our literature review continues with a focus on decision-making, simulations and background on the use of our methodological approaches: *Klein's Recognition-Primed Decision framework* and *Ethnographic Decision Tree Modeling*. Please do let me know if you are aware of any relevant articles or research where either of these models have been used. We will be meeting with the JIBC Ethics Review Board in November to present our ethics proposal and we are continuing to work on the development of our research design so that we will be ready to begin our analysis in mid-January following the first pilot exercise.

I do hope that as our project unfolds you will find our regular updates interesting and that you will take the opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas with us. We welcome contributions to our Newsletter and website and look forward to developing a relationship with all of you over the next four years.



Laurie Pearce
SIMTEC Research Chair

SIMTEC Project Inaugural Meetings

The SIMTEC Project hosted its inaugural reception, Expert Working Group meeting and the Project Review Committee meeting from October 11th through to 13th.

SIMTEC Launch Reception – October 11th

Seventy-one people attended the SIMTEC Launch Reception on October 11th, including but not limited to, representatives from several Police and Fire Departments throughout the Lower Mainland, Emergency Management BC, Office of the Chief Coroner, RCMP Identification & Disaster Response Unit, Fraser Health Authority, Kamloops General Hospital, Division of Infectious Diseases - UBC, BC Psychological Association, the Canadian Red Cross, Children's and Women's Hospital, Public Health Services Authority, BC Ministry of Health, City of Vancouver, Centre for Security Science, the President and Associate Vice-President Research Royal Roads University, together with independent practitioners and representatives from the JIBC Board of Governors. Also in attendance were international experts from the United Kingdom, USA, and Australia.



Mark Williamson, Director, DRDC Centre for Security Science and Jack McGee, President, Justice Institute of British Columbia.

Greg Anderson, Dean, Office of Applied Research welcomed the participants and introduced Research

Chair Laurie Pearce. Laurie thanked the participants for attending, including Royal Roads University President Allan Cahoon and Associate Vice President of Research Mary Bernard who travelled from Victoria to demonstrate their support in furthering collaborative research. Laurie gave a short introduction to the project and its overall goals and objectives. Mark Williamson, Director from the Centre for Security Science (Ottawa) spoke for a few minutes about the overall objectives of CRTI project funding and how well the current projects hosted by the Justice Institute fits within their mandate. President Jack McGee closed the address by thanking and acknowledging the participants' support for the project and the importance of applied research and the opportunity that it brings for JIBC to work collaboratively with the research community. Participants were then given the opportunity to tour the B. Rix Public Safety Simulation Building Centre and given explanation of Hydra and ExPOD and how it will be used during this project.

Expert Working Group (EWG) Meeting

The inaugural Expert Working Group gathered on October 12th for a one day meeting with community, academic and government partners. Forty-four participants attended the EWG meeting, including the international experts. Representatives from local Police and Fire Departments attended, along with psychologists, medical doctors, members of Emergency Management BC, the Coroner's Office, faculty from the University of Ottawa and University of British Columbia, the Canadian Red Cross, the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Ministry of Health and the Provincial Health Services Authority, local community emergency planners, social workers, and other leading practitioners interested in furthering the research in building psychosocial capacity. The EWG meeting was supported by ten JIBC researchers, staff and representatives of the

Executive team. In addition we were delighted to have our Project Champion, Francois Legault François Legault, the National Director of the Employee Assistance Services (EAS) Bureau from Health Canada and international experts Colin Tansley from the UK; Bruce Blythe; from the US, Avi Kirschenbaum from Israel; and Mike Tarrant from Australia.

Participants were given an overview of the SIMTEC project and the deliverables. After an opportunity to introduce themselves and how they could contribute to the project, they were given a brief introduction to how the concept of "psychosocial" was being used in this project. They then received a tour of the B. Rix Public Safety Simulation Building and explanation of Hydra and ExPOD and how it will be used.



Darren Blackburn, Coordinator - Emergency Management & Exercise Design, Emergency Management Division leading a discussion on exercise development and suggestions for scenarios/injects.

In the afternoon, the groups were broken into five discussion sessions to help guide the research and solicit participant expertise to support the exercise development process. The EWG meeting was very successful. Many of the participants expressed that they found the experience energizing, interesting and exciting.

Summary of the EWG Key Findings

The following findings were summarized from the two EWG working sessions on October 12 2011. The full report will be posted on our website by the end of November. Many thanks to our recorders, researchers Marti Hamlen, Karen-Marie Perry, and Bethan Lloyd and members of the Exercise Development Team Darren Blackburn and Bob Walker.

Discussions mainly focused around Natural Disasters such as Katrina, Epidemic/Health Disasters such as the H1N1, and high impact events such as 9/11. Psychosocial (PS) considerations were examined for each type of disaster, along with lessons learned from past events. Participants shared their experiences in implementing PS support that helped first responders and the community involved to overcome emergency situations. There are two main stages of PS support planning that are situated 'during' and 'after' an event; and types of preferred PS support at a community level were analyzed and differentiated from support delivered to responders.

Throughout the working sessions, communication was seen as an important factor that can have a positive or negative PS impact. Communication within responding teams; media and how events are communicated should also be considered.

An important aspect of being able to deliver PS support is to consider how PS interventions are seen in the public among responders and the community involved. It is crucial to consider the barriers (stigma around PS support, level of accessibility) and to think about best strategies to communicate and promote use of PS services. Along these lines, PS definition at a policy level, and the short and long term costs of not addressing psychosocial impacts were also analyzed.

Introductions

Jim Boerma - Project Manager



Jim joined the RDRP (CRTI 07-0135RD) Project in April 2010 to provide project management and planning oversight. In June 2011, Jim transferred over to the Project Manager position for the SIMTEC (CRTI 08-0114RD) Project. Jim brings with him over twenty-five years of business management experience, including over fifteen years in international trade. He has gained broad industry experience through owning his own businesses, working in private industry, a non-profit organization and for the Canadian government. Jim previously worked with the BCIT, School of Construction and the Environment, as Industry Services Manager and has taught a variety of evening business courses for the Institute on a part time basis since 2004. Mr. Boerma is an alumnus of Simon Fraser University, Business Administration.

Terry Bodaly – Administration Research Assistant



Terry joined the Justice Institute in April 2011 as the Administrative Research Assistant to the RDRP (CRTI 07-0135RD) Project. By June 2011, Terry had expanded her role to provide 0.5 FTE support to the recently signed SIMTEC (CRTI 08-0114RD) Project. Terry brings solid organizational and administration skills that lend key support to the Core Team research initiatives. She prides herself in being methodical in her duties while being flexible in her day to day activities to help provide effective support to two separate projects. Terry looks forward to learning more about event planning and helping support the field research activities and the project team meetings.

Funding Partners

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Project Partner

We also like to acknowledge the support of Royal Roads University.



Co-Principal Investigators:

Laurie Pearce PhD, Research Chair (JIBC)
Robin Cox PhD (Royal Roads University)
Colleen Vaughan MEd (JIBC)

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