

## SIMTEC NEWSLETTER

### Greetings!

It has been an exciting time for our project as we have just completed the Pilot Exercise on February 10<sup>th</sup> 2012, and the Test Exercise on March 9<sup>th</sup> 2012. Both exercises went very well. For our Pilot Exercise we had three communities take part: New Westminster, the North Shore and the City of Vancouver. We kept to the plan as outlined in the Master of Sequence of Events Listing posted on our Expert Working Group (EWG) Forum. The communities found it a great way to practice working together in an EOC (as there are not many EOC exercises) and found the exercise to be realistic and challenging. From my vantage in the Control Room, I certainly found it genuine!

Many thanks to our EWG members (Wade Pierlot, Heleen Sandvik and Rod Salem) who were able to attend and provide us with some very useful insights on how to improve the exercise. After serving lunch we conducted focus group interviews with each community EOC and obtained a lot of additional information which was really helpful. We got a quick turnaround on the transcripts of the interviews and then took the next three weeks to enhance the exercise for the Test Exercise in March.

There were lots of minor tweaks to be made here and there but one of the most difficult to achieve, given the format of exercise using the JIBC Hydra system, and given that we will be making the exercise available to everyone at the end of the year on our Collaboratory, is on how to duplicate the noise level of a typical EOC. Similarly we need to be able to portray in a realistic way the many inquiries EOC first responders would have of their Incident Commanders on site.

We also needed to bring forward some of the events in terms of timing and to be clearer in terms of some of the dilemmas we wanted the EOC staffing to consider.

For example, given a general lack of resources (e.g., fire trucks) which event would get priority, knowing the incident which didn't get the resources would result in serious, but otherwise preventable losses?

The Test Exercise was also an excellent experience. We were delighted that both the North Shore and the City of Vancouver were pleased enough to send a second crew to the March exercise. They were joined by the EOC staff from the communities of Coquitlam and Chilliwack. To address the noise level issue, we introduced a continuous background audio file running in the background (e.g., phones ringing, background noise) and that seemed to help –but as we found out we still need to do a better job re: the radio calls back and forth from the units in the field to dispatch. We already have some ideas on how to improve this for October, but would welcome your suggestions. Also thanks to those who responded to our quest for some “graphic” photos or videos we could use in the exercise (special thanks to Colin Tansley).

What else did we learn? We were pleased with the uptake on our use of social media during the exercise – still a relatively new phenomenon for EOC personnel to deal with. We agreed to drop (pun intended) the audio clip of the maintenance man falling off the roof while shoveling the snow from the script as it proved to be too unrealistic in the simulated EOC rooms. We also recognized that we need to make the newscasts a little more sensationalistic – although realistic they needed that extra journalist perspective to grab viewer attention. If you know of any current or recently newscasters who would be willing to drop in and spend an hour or so filming with us – please tell them to give us a call.

We were very pleased to have our Project Champion, Health Canada participate via webcam and also many thanks to our EWG members (Heather Lyle, Wade

Pierlot, Kevin Wallinger, Paul Olson and David Nelmes). Also a huge thanks from Robin Cox, Colleen Vaughan and myself to our researchers for both exercises: Karen-Marie Perry, Ciara Moran, Alanna Thompson, Gary Thandi, Christine Yu, Marti Hamlin and Bethan Lloyd for their hard work. Additional thanks to our staff Jim Boerma and Terry Bodaly for their help; our “loggers” Diana Craig, Mary Dal Santo, Dana Martinson and Sue Salsnek; and our exercise development and technical support team of Bob Walker, Darren Blackburn and Jerome Rodriguez, Simon Chau, Viktor Simon and Lars Bye-Jensen.

Now the research work really begins! After the Test Exercise we held focus groups with two communities and did individual interviews with the members of the other two communities. The transcripts are getting completed and our researchers have begun the time-consuming coding work. Many thanks to EWG member Bonnie Long for her feedback on the coding block.

## Next Steps

As mentioned previously, our priority is now to get everything coded, to complete the analysis, and then develop the decision tree model as part of our ethnographic decision making research. I’m hoping to have the analysis done by early May – in time for our next newsletter.

## How Can YOU Help?

Starting in the spring we will begin our literature review focusing on decontamination and specifically looking at how psychosocial considerations are (or are not) included in existing procedures. We also want to conduct interviews with members of the EWG and start to develop the decontamination psychosocial protocols in the fall. So a busy six months ahead!

If you feel that this is an area where you can assist us please let us know. Links to, or articles about, psychosocial considerations for decontamination protocols are of keen interest to us. As well, we would like any case histories you are aware of that involve decontamination protocols – let us know. Please do post them to the EWG Forum so that we can share your expertise and case examples, or if you wish you can always email us. I know that decontamination issues are of interest to a fair number of you and we really want to capture your expertise. We’ll be asking who would like to be interviewed in our next Newsletter edition.

## Book This Date!

Our EWG will reconvene on **October 30<sup>th</sup> 2012** for their annual meeting to review the project’s progress to date as well as the next steps in the research. By this time we will have run the final Psychosocial Exercise and will be looking for your comments and suggestions to help finalize the training and exercise for posting to our Collaboratory in December 2012.

The Project Review Committee (PRC) will convene on October 31<sup>st</sup> 2012. The PRC will review the project’s progress, evaluate the financial status and discuss any recommended changes to the project Charter.

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. All the best in the coming months.



Laurie Pearce  
SIMTEC Research Chair

## SIMTEC Website

Our SIMTEC website has gone through even more enhancements – mostly to make it easier for EWG members to log into the EWG reserved Forum. Please do take a couple of minutes to log in. You can post information, links, documents, etc. to be shared with other members and ask questions as well. Our SIMTEC Facebook page is also available for anyone to add comments, provide suggestions, etc. and can be found at our main website (<http://simtec.jibc.ca/node/14>). You can also follow us on Twitter at [@SimtecProject](https://twitter.com/SimtecProject).

## Researcher Profile

### Paulina Moreno - Researcher I



Paulina Moreno has a five year professional degree in Clinical Psychology from the Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Ecuador including a year of research focused on psychoanalysis and cinema. She continued her post-graduate studies in clinical work for Addictions at the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina. She has undergone more than eight years of Lacanian psychoanalytical training and is an active contributing member of the Trauma and Addiction Research Module program at the Descartes Centre, Buenos Aires associated with the Institute of the Freudian Field. Paulina holds a M.Ed. degree in Society, Culture and Politics in Education from the University of British Columbia where she focused her research on the neo-liberal capitalist context of addictions, discourse, and power. She has experience working as a therapist in public institutions and in private practice and also has experience as a Lacanian psychoanalyst under supervision. She is also a member of the Lacan Salon study group in Vancouver since 2007. Her experience

also includes working as a Research Assistant for Arbor Educational & Clinical Consulting since 2009.

## 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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