

Greetings!

We continue to be busy at the SIMTEC office since the last newsletter in late July. No summer slow-down for us 😊.

Works has continued over the month of August to further develop our *Winter Blues* exercise injects and training video. I am really excited by the training video and thanks again to all our EWG members who sent their feedback. We listened to all of it and incorporated what we could into the material.

We then brought together a team of EWG members and subject matter experts to review the training scripts. Many thanks to Rene Bernklau (BC Ambulance Service); Rick McKenna (JIBC Police Academy); Scott Philp and Keith Boswell from the JIBC Fire Academy for meeting with the researchers and exercise development and training team. Over the course of half a day we reviewed the scripts, line-by-line, to make sure that they reflected accurately the language and tone of those first response agencies.

We were also grateful to have members of the EWG (Lee Patterson and Rene Bernklau) available to “coach” our professional actors to make sure that they looked and acted the parts realistically (“No, a police officer would not put his arm on the shoulder of a firefighter when asking him a question in the EOC!”) Bob Walker, our JIBC training and video lead “extraordinaire” did a fabulous job of pulling together everyone for the day long shoot in the EOC and thanks to Viktor Simon for his assistance as well.

We also had a good time filming a group of young ice hockey players – all with pretty dramatic, but realistic injuries – thanks to Graham Dodd MD, another EWG member, who provided realistic descriptions of the various injuries the players would receive to help guide

our moulage team (see one shot of a realistic looking injury on our website). Not surprisingly perhaps, but none of our young players wanted to take their makeup off after the shoot was over – they clearly went for the horror factor as they left to stroll through the local shopping area sporting assorted cuts and bruises!

While the filming was taking place, JIBC Exercise Development Specialist Darren Blackburn, was working to produce well over 200 radio dispatches as exercise injects. We were also very grateful for the services of Steve Darling, Global TV News Anchor to produce our newscasts as exercise injects.

In reading what I’ve written to this point it sounds like we are in the media business, but behind the scenes our researchers have also been working hard. Once the preparation work for *Winter Blues* was done, they immediately turned their focus to our upcoming Decontamination Exercise scheduled for 2013. EWG member Colin Tansley and a colleague of his, Colin George, both from the UK have been helping out with articles and links to various sites to help us get a good handle on how to approach this next exercise.

We are in midst of forming a local CBRNE Exercise Advisory Committee comprised of various organizations and individuals to help guide us through the development of the functional exercise to be held in March 2013. This will validate our recommended psychosocial protocols for special needs populations as well as for the general population. We are also fortunate to have Ray Monteith, a Royal Roads graduate student, working with us on his Major Research Project which is focused on Decontamination Protocols.

While we will continue to include the wide range of special needs populations in our exercise (as mentioned in our July Newsletter) we have a special interest in children undergoing decontamination. Our findings to

date indicate that supporting children through this process is an area that has not been well researched.

Children pose a number of concerns during a decontamination process. They can often be quite scared of the individuals in HAZMAT suits and are more likely to develop PTSD symptoms (Ginter et al., 2006 as cited in Edkins et al., 2010). Also, children often take longer to process because they require assistance disrobing, robing and showering (Edkins et al., 2010). They also are much more likely to develop hypothermia during decontamination (Heon & Foltin, 2009). This means that more personnel are required to support and supervise children during every step of the process. In addition, children sometimes present without parents and may require constant supervision in the hot zone as well as follow-up in the cold zone in order to locate parents and regulate behavior and emotions (Edkins et al., 2010).

Edkins, V., Carter, H., Riddle, L., Harrison, C., & Amlot, R. (2010). Systematic review of the needs of vulnerable and minority groups in emergency decontamination. *Optimisation Through Research of Chemical Incident Decontamination Systems (ORCHIDS)*.

Heon, D., & Foltin, G. L. (2009). Principles of pediatric decontamination. *Clinical Pediatric Emergency Medicine, 10* (3), 186-194.

Our recent success using subject matter experts to coach actors in the *Winter Blues* exercise has led us to consider using actors to play the role of various persons with special needs who may actually be traumatized by directly participating in the decontamination exercise. For example, we may ask an actor to pair up with a young person with autism and as we walk the young person through the process s/he could explain to the actor exactly how s/he would respond. That would add

to the degree of realism that we are looking for in the exercise without adding any additional stress or trauma to the person with the special need - Vancouver in March can be quite rainy and miserable.

We will be launching our training video on October 29th, leading into the Winter Blues Exercise here at JIBC. On Tuesday, October 30th we will host our EWG meeting (agenda has been posted on our website) and on October 31st we have our Project Review Committee Meeting. Enjoy the fall and we look forward to getting back together in a few weeks.



Safe travels!

Laurie Pearce

SIMTEC Research Chair

International Expert Profile

Alan (Avi) Kirschenbaum



Avi Kirschenbaum is a Senior Research Fellow at The Samuel Neaman Institute for National Policy Research, Technion - Israel Institute of Technology and a Professor in Organizational Sociology and Disaster Management, Faculty of Industrial Engineering and Management, Technion. He is also a Senior Research Advisor for the Technion Research and Development Foundation. Avi was also the past director of research, and senior consultant to the Population Behaviour Section, Israel's Home Front Command.

The author of dozens of scientific journal articles and book chapters and a published book "Chaos Organization and Disaster Management" (Marcel

Dekker, 2004). He was a member of editorial boards of leading international journals, executive board member of the International Research Committee on Disasters (RC-39) and the European Disaster & Social Crisis Research Network and member of various international professional academic associations. He is coordinator of a European Union research project (PF7) for developing a behavioral science model and training program dealing with airport security (BEMOSA) and a EU (FP7) consortium research partner focusing on providing psycho-social support tools for disaster service providers and victims of disasters (PSYCRIS).

Professor Kirschenbaum is also involved in a number of applied research projects that include measuring the effectiveness of disaster management organizations, business continuity during disasters and enhancing local authority, household and organizational preparedness. He is currently doing international research on the community basis of societal resilience and the importance of adaptive behavioural changes in reducing the impact of terrorism. He has frequently appeared in local and international TV – radio programs and been quoted in newspaper interviews.

How did you learn about SIMTEC?

“Having coffee with Laurie and Larry in a Café in Goteberg where the ISA meetings were being held. Laurie told me about the SIMTEC project and asked if I was interested in joining. I immediately said yes.”

“Underlying my reaction was the fact that I had been intimately involved in Israel with the same kinds of issues and hoped I could share my experiences – the trial and errors - and make a substantive contribution to the project. The opportunity to be part of a controlled experiment – something extremely rare in disaster research – was really appealing. For me, this type of project represents a platform for replication and

generic guidelines that can have direct consequences on disaster management.”

“Finally, I see being involved as a two-way street; giving of my knowledge and experience and obtaining feedback to update and improve future research in this area.”

Research Team Updates

We were really sorry to see Christine Yu leave at the end of August to take a full-time counseling job. For those of you who got a chance to talk to her over the summer, she mentioned that she’s going to drop by in October to say hello.

Her position was posted and we have short-listed three candidates. Keep tuned to our Twitter feed to hear who the successful candidate will be.

Terry Bodaly is moving from our office into a full-time position as a Program Assistant in the Police Academy and Justice & Public Safety Division (JPSD). We wish to thank Terry for her dedication and service and we really appreciate all her contributions and efforts to make sure things ran smoothly in the office.

Welcome to Karen Beketa!

We are pleased to announce that **Karen Beketa** is the successful candidate for the Administration Research Assistant position. Karen has been with JIBC since March of this year, working in various assignments within the Paramedic Academy, School of Health Sciences and the Fire and Safety Division, School of Public Safety and Security. Karen brings strong accounting and administration skills, and has a well rounded customer and client service background.

Welcome Karen!

Researcher Profile



Gary Thandi

Gary Thandi has his Masters in Social Work and in addition to being a Justice Institute of British Columbia research associate, is a clinical services program manager at a non-profit agency in Surrey that specializes in working with ethno-cultural communities. He has also worked as an addictions and family counsellor and was a probation officer in Abbotsford for 7 years. As a member of the Centre for the Prevention and Reduction of Violence at the Justice Institute of British Columbia, he has co-authored the report “This is a Man’s Problem”: Strategies for Working with South Asian male perpetrators of intimate partner violence.

Remember To Book This Date!

Our EWG will reconvene on **October 30th 2012** for its 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 31st 2012 to review the project’s progress, evaluate the financial status and discuss any recommended changes to the project Charter.

How Can YOU Help?

Please log in to our site – check out the EWG Forum and give us your feedback on our materials. We are keen to use your expertise to ensure we can deliver the very best product.

Funding Partners

The SIMTEC Project acknowledges the contribution and support of its Funding & Project Partners - The Centre for Security Science (CSS), Department of National Defence (DND), Health Canada, and Justice Institute of British Columbia.



Project Partner



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

Co-Principal Investigators:

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