August 2018 Profiles in Simulation: Jamie Stiner, CHSOS

Get Back on The Horse

When Society for Simulation in Healthcare board member Jamie Stiner says that if you fall off your horse, you should get back on again, she is not simply using it as a metaphor.

When she was younger, she had trained as an equestrian for years with her horse Elizabeth, and was eager to participate in her first world show competition. When that day came, Elizabeth refused to jump and Jamie fell off. But the following year, as if following the pages from a movie script, Jamie went back to the competition and won.

Like a lot of simulationist she fell into this career by chance. She relocated from Idaho to Los Angeles and took a job as an administrative assistant at the UCLA Simulation Center. That led to her becoming the first full time Operations Specialist (OS) at UCLA.

After her first experience at IMSH, which was personally not what she had hoped for in terms of networking, Jamie helped grow the community of Operations Specialists, as she reflected during her address to SimOps earlier this year.

“A pivotal moment came for me when I met several like-minded people, they had the same passion and determination for the profession, and we networked. We shared the same desire to continue to grow our SimOps community, we saw the need for a collaborative environment for operations specialists to be able to network,” she said in her speech.

“Then I decided to challenge myself differently. I moved to Dallas, Texas where I am the OS and educator for the High-Reliability Team. We are an independent InSitu only simulation team for the UT Southwestern Hospital system.”

“I have fallen off many horses, literally and figuratively, but so far, I keep getting back up. I know I will continue to fall but I will get back up because of my passion, curiosity, and determination for the success of this profession.”

“You can make a difference by cohesively representing our profession. Be a visionary leader. By assembling and sharing the same vision, we continued to work together to grow our group into a community. We developed the Simulation Operations Technology Section “SOTS” and this year held our 4th Annual SimOps Conference.
But in order for all of this to continue to grow with success, we need to do so through advocacy."

Simulation operations is important to Stiner because it makes a difference in people’s lives, even though it is technical by nature. She relayed this note that a physician at her institution had recently shared:

*Just last month my attending and I were called to evaluate a patient in the chemotherapy suite at an offsite location. He had an infusion reaction and lost his pulse and stopped breathing. The simulation refresher definitely came in handy. We picked him up from the recliner, laid him down on a stretcher (paying attention to minute details such as having a hardboard under the pt). I started compressions, code was called and by the time the ICU team arrived, the pt was already being bagged, pads were on, and we had ROSC. That pt was admitted for observation and was ultimately able to walk out of the hospital. All the other pts in the chemo suite were witness to this and thanked us for the care that they receive.*

*The outcome may have been different if we were late to start compressions. It’s for situations like these that all the training feels worth it. So I’m glad that we have this initiative at our institution.*