

Report on Staff Erasmus Mobility Stay at the MediKIT Center of the Medical Faculty of the University of Heidelberg

Date: July 1-5, 2024

The primary objective of the visit to the MediKIT Center at the Medical Faculty of the University of Heidelberg was to observe their simulation-based teaching methods in medical communication. The focus was on gaining insights into how German-speaking medical students are trained in various aspects of medical communication and to explore potential collaborative opportunities between our institutions.

During the stay, five simulation-based teaching units were observed. Each unit included a briefing, the simulation session, and a debriefing. The topics covered in these sessions were:

1. **Breaking Bad News:** This session emphasized the delicate nature of communicating unfavorable diagnoses to patients and their families. It provided valuable insights into the structured approach used to train students in delivering bad news empathetically and professionally.
2. **Interprofessional Communication:** The session demonstrated the importance of effective communication among healthcare professionals. The simulation involved scenarios where clear and concise communication was essential for patient safety and effective teamwork.
3. **Patient-Centered History Taking:** This unit focused on teaching students how to take comprehensive patient histories with a patient-centered approach, ensuring that patients feel heard and respected throughout the process.
4. **Follow-Up Consultations:** The simulation highlighted the follow-up process with patients, ensuring continuity of care, and reinforcing the importance of maintaining a therapeutic relationship.

The specialties covered in these sessions included internal medicine, psychosomatics, psychiatry, hematology, oncology, gastroenterology, cardiology, and geriatrics. This diverse range of specialties provided a comprehensive view of the simulation-based teaching methods employed at the MediKIT Center.

Consultations:

1. Dr. Jobst-Hendrik Schultz, Head of the Center

A three-hour consultation was held with Dr. Jobst-Hendrik Schultz. The discussion was highly productive and focused on the following key areas:

- **Teaching Methodologies:** Dr. Schultz provided an overview of the pedagogical approaches and technologies used in their simulation-based teaching. The integration of high-fidelity mannequins and standardized patients in their training modules was particularly noteworthy.
- **Curriculum Development:** The consultation explored the structure of their medical communication curriculum and the competencies that are prioritized. Dr. Schultz

shared insights into the continuous improvement process of their curriculum based on student feedback and emerging best practices.

- Potential Collaborations: The potential for collaboration between the Institute of Languages for Specific Purposes at Semmelweis University and the MediKIT Center was discussed. Areas of mutual interest include joint research projects, faculty exchange programs, and the development of shared educational resources.

2. Andrea Schaal-Ardicoglu, Coordinator of Simulated Patient Trainings

A three-hour consultation with Andrea Schaal-Ardicoglu focused on the operational aspects and coordination of simulated patient trainings:

- Simulated Patient Recruitment and Training: Andrea detailed the process of recruiting and training simulated patients, emphasizing the importance of consistency and realism in simulations.

- Scenario Development: The discussion covered how scenarios are developed and tailored to meet specific learning objectives, ensuring they reflect real-life clinical situations.

- Feedback Mechanisms: Insights were provided into how feedback from simulated patients is integrated into the training process, enhancing student learning outcomes.

3. Lay Simulated Patients

A one-hour consultation with lay simulated patients provided a unique perspective on the training process. The simulated patients shared their experiences, highlighting the challenges and rewards of participating in the training sessions. Their feedback underscored the importance of empathy and effective communication in medical practice.

The Erasmus mobility stay at the MediKIT Center of the Medical Faculty of the University of Heidelberg was highly beneficial. The insights gained from observing their simulation-based teaching methods and the consultations with Dr. Jobst-Hendrik Schultz, Andrea Schaal-Ardicoglu, and the lay simulated patients will inform the enhancement of our medical communication training programs at Semmelweis University. The potential for future collaboration holds great promise for both institutions, fostering an exchange of knowledge and best practices in the field of medical education.

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