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President's Message

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Dear INACSL and Simulation Colleagues,

As President of International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning (INACSL), I am excited to introduce the *INACSL Standards of Best Practice: Simulation™ 2016*. The INACSL Standards are a living document and will be updated as the science of simulation evolves. This valuable document is the result of the dedication and thoroughness of the Standards Committee, the expertise on our Standards Advisory Board, and the INACSL Board of Directors. Dr. Barbara Sittner, Standards Chair, has worked diligently to accomplish this revision and deserves recognition for leading this project. A special thanks goes to the Standards Committee members: Dr. Wendy Thomson, Dr. Michelle Aebersold, Ms. Leslie Graham, Dr. Jane Paige, and INACSL's Vice President of Research, Dr. Suzie Kardong-Edgren. Many other simulation experts and international organizations have worked with the Standards Committee, and the INACSL Board of Directors appreciate their commitment to assisting us to accomplish our mission to advance the science of simulation.

INACSL published the first standards for simulation in 2011. These standards were the result of two years of hard work by the INACSL Board of Directors. I was fortunate to have been involved in the creation of the INACSL Standards 2011. As simulation advances, so does the need for standards to be revised, updated, and changed based on the best evidence. The INACSL Board of Directors decided to have a Standards Committee and Advisory Board to guide this crucial work for the ongoing work on the Standards. In 2013, the Standards were updated to include guidelines for practice. In 2015, two new standards focused on interprofessional education and simulation design. All Standards were vetted by 20 interprofessional health care and simulation organizations worldwide. Valuable information was gained during this process, which guided the work of the Standards Committee.

So what has changed in the Standards 2016? As you read the Standards, you will notice the formatting has changed. This change in our template was based on information consulting with experts in developing standards. One decision

was made to remove the number associated with each INACSL Standard. The numbers assigned to the Standards can suggest a hierarchy, which had never been the intent of the 2011 Standards. The Standards on Facilitation and Facilitator have been combined to decrease redundancy. Another major change is the removal of Terminology Standard. Terminology has been placed in the Glossary. The Glossary will contain definitions used in the INACSL Standards.

The INACSL Standards have been recognized and adopted by many institutions and simulation centers as the foundation for developing simulation scenarios. In 2014, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing released the results of their multisite, randomized control trial, longitudinal national simulation study (Hayden, Smiley, Alexander, Kardong-Edgren, & Jeffries, 2014). This landmark study suggests that simulation can be substituted for up to 50% of traditional clinical experiences with similar outcomes for prelicensure nursing curriculum. Some parameters that were suggested were the need for a sufficient number of adequately trained and committed faculty, dedicated simulation laboratories with appropriate resources, realistically and appropriately designed scenarios, faculty trained in debriefing based on a theoretical model, and incorporation of the INACSL Standards of Best Practice: SimulationSM 2016. After this study, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing developed simulation guidelines for prelicensure nursing programs (Alexander et al., 2015). These guidelines provide simulation faculty and programs with a method to assist in developing high-quality simulation for best results. The INACSL Standards were listed as a resource in the guidelines.

Previously, I stated what has changed with this revision of the Standards; now I will state what you need to do now. The INACSL Standards should be used in all areas of simulation education. These Standards should be referred to and incorporated into your simulation program. As you read these Standards, be a reflective educator, practitioner, and/or researcher and determine how you are using the Standards. INACSL encourages you to use the Standards as a foundation for your simulation experiences.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all of you—the INACSL membership—for assisting INACSL to advance the science of simulation. The organization would not be where it is without the dedication of our membership publishing in the journal, presenting at conferences, or volunteering for committee work. We are now >2,000 members and growing. INACSL appreciates our collaboration with CAE Healthcare in cosponsoring the publication of the Standards and the development of the INACSL CAE Healthcare Simulation Fellowship based on the INACSL Standards. So, take these Standards and simulate on!

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