



By Jenny Wakefield / Snowflake Lannock

On February 8, 2009, ISTE's Esme Qunhua and Assistant Juanita Collins took the ISTE Tour Group for a visit to the Ann Meyers Medical Center - AMMC. A group of 20 avatars participated as the two hour tour started at 9:00 a.m. SLT.

Tessa Finesmith, a nurse working at the AMMC, met up with the group together with Fidelius Dollinger. The latter being part of the sim security team. They both lead the group around the hospital sim. AMMC was founded by Dr. Ann Buchanan and named after her mother Ann Meyers. It is now a part of Spott Shaw College in Canada. The intention with the facility is to train medical personnel. Here research collaboration takes place on an international level and medical consultations are available with board-certified physicians and psychologists.



Tessa Finesmith



The facility is locked for access when there is no faculty at the sim to prevent griever attacks and fantasy play.

Tessa showed the group many of the interesting rooms in the hospital. In the emergency room there is an ultrasound machine, an emergency defibrillator with animations simulating heart failure among other things.

One of the downsides with the sim, Tessa told us, is that when too many avatars come to the sim it crashes. Only a few students are therefore allowed at any given time. Often a couple of students will be in the emergency room as avatars leading the work, under guidance from students watching on screen from a RL classroom. Crashing with too many visitors was also the reason for the tour group being restricted to twenty participants.

Tessa told us that approximately thirty medical students have trained in this facility so far. The hospital has been in SL for about a year. Tessa expressed that another problem she is experiencing is that her nursing students do not have the computer capacity to come in and train, but in the future, as computers get upgraded they will.

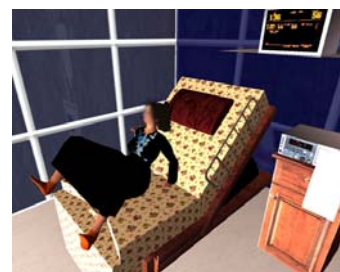


Other uses for the hospital facility are for experts to come in and hold presentations. Some sessions are led by interns. Students also use the sim to do case studies and they bring in RL examples to discuss in SL.

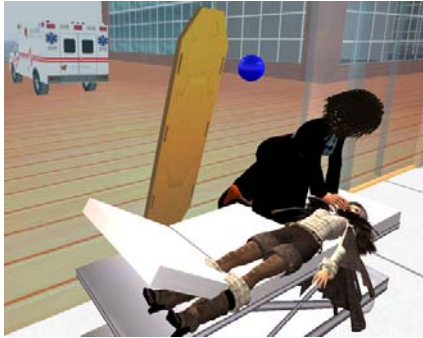
The hospital is well equipped to train in a variety of areas. For example, a schizophrenia simulation is available, a women's clinic with complete breast exam information and equipment, a room for casting patients, a radiology room, and a surgery room where different anesthesia can be given to avatars while monitoring for reactions. Students can learn different heart sounds and avatars can be equipped with sounds that students can be quizzed on. Pulmonary function testing can be tested and avatars can be equipped with a special HUD that simulates pregnancy.



The birthing room was fully equipped with birthing beds – also a tub for underwater birthing or just plain relaxation – and machines that measure, for example, contractions and fetal heart rate.



I think this facility is an amazing build and has great potential as an educational platform for nursing students and other medical students. The problem with the sim crashing I am sure can be overcome with time as Linden develops their software and as we learn how to avoid sim crashes.



SLUR: Ann Myers Medical Center - Sprot, Hospital (142, 193, 21)

For more reading about this simulation in Second Life visit Ann Meyers Medical Center Blog:
<http://ammc.wordpress.com/2007/06/01/the-beginning/>

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