

Simulation has emerged over the past two decades as one of the critical elements of a much-needed revolution in medical education. By in large, the status quo has been tweaked in small ways since the Flexner Report but without fundamental change.

David Gaba stands above all others as the pioneering investigator, educator and intellectual leader in the simulation movement.

Dr. Gaba's earliest contributions were in providing leadership to a research group in re-inventing the technology of mannequin-based interactive simulation in 1986. He was not just a technical inventor, he recognized simulation as a tool to probe and train issues of non-technical (behavioral and team work) skills in addition to addressing medical and technical aspects. David first brought the concepts of Cockpit/Crew Resource Management to healthcare linking them to simulation-based training, first in anesthesia and then in many other disciplines. Dr. Gaba is perhaps the most influential creator of applying the concept of training for teamwork in healthcare, something that is now widely recognized as critical for both effectiveness and safety.

In 1988, David's simulator was the only mannequin-based fully active simulator in the world. Their commercialization has subsequently led to wide dissemination internationally. In 2009, there are now **thousands** of active mannequin-based simulation programs most of which conduct curricula pioneered by Dr. Gaba. David had perhaps the greatest role of any one in the inception of simulation programs in all parts of the world through direct efforts, training of post-doctoral research fellows, direct mentorship and substantial pro-bono consultation. It is very telling that David was one of two overseas scientist who was asked to address Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the opening of the Simulation Center in Perth, West Australia. Few simulation programs have not felt his direct or indirect influence.

Over this almost 25-year career, Dr. Gaba has delivered hundreds of invited lectures and keynote addresses including multiple prestigious named lectureships. His work is reported broadly throughout the professional literature. Based on his influence, the International Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare is now an annual conference with more than 1700 attendees. He was a founding board member of the Society for Simulation in Medicine, now renamed as the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (more than 2000 members). In 2006 he was the founding and remains current Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Simulation in Healthcare* (the only Medline-indexed peer-reviewed journal on healthcare simulation). In 2004, based on all these contributions, Dr. Gaba was appointed as Associate Dean for Immersive and Simulation-based Learning here at Stanford University School of Medicine. This is the first and perhaps the only decanal position dedicated solely to simulation and related techniques.