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For immediate release

Education made 'SIM'ple – PLC Simulation Centre Grand Opening

CALGARY – A patient at Peter Lougheed Centre is rushed into the operating room showing signs of internal bleeding that will require an emergency exploratory laparotomy. The man is confused and mumbling in a foreign language and, as the doctors and nurses assess the situation, he goes into cardiac arrest. Monitors beep in frenzy, the trauma room is buzzing, the patient is 'bagged' and chest compressions are performed. There is no time to stop when things go sideways.

Fortunately this time is an eSIM (educate, Simulate, Innovate, Motivate) training scenario, one of many that are practiced at the hospital every day. The patient, a lifelike mannequin, can be programmed to mimic any situation, limited only by the imagination of the simulation consultant. Ultimately this will allow Peter Lougheed Center health care professionals, no matter their discipline, profession, unit or level of experience, the opportunity to develop new skills in a safe environment, without exposing real patients to risk.

"eSIM is the next step in patient care. It provides clinicians with the opportunity to practice routine procedures in a safe environment and ensures that the entire multidisciplinary team, physicians, nurses and others, have the training and communication skills required to deliver optimal care to our patients," said Dr. Dan Zuege, Medical Director PLC ICU, "The Simulation Centre at the Peter Lougheed Hospital is a fantastic addition to the overall eSIM program, allowing us to be at the forefront of simulation based training in North America."

The now completed, PLC Simulation Centre is a unique clinical space for simulation that allows for "real world" training opportunities. It is the first full site in Calgary to be rolled out and is part of a provincial wide strategy the will make Alberta a leader in training and education.

"The PLC Simulation Centre has been made possible through the generosity of Calgary Health Trust donors and Lifestyles Lottery ticket purchasers," says Sally Flintoft, CEO, Calgary Health Trust. "The equipment will help staff learn how to treat and react to broad spectrum of scenarios and will give them the confidence and experience they need when real-life situations occur."

Media are invited to attend the grand opening which will include a demonstration of three simultaneous simulations (birth, cardiac, pediatric emergency) and interview Sue Gudmundson, Marlene Donahue, Marilyn Wilson Leach, Sally Flintoft, Dr. Dan Zuege today at Peter Lougheed Hospital. Please meet at the main entrance where a representative will escort you to the eSIM event location.

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INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES: Interviewees include Sue Gudmundson, Vice President of Peter Lougheed Centre, Marilyn Willison-Leach, Executive Director Quality Skills Development & eSIM, Dr. Dan Zuege, Medical Director PLC ICU, Marlene Donahue, Director, eSIM Operations & Education and Sally Flintoft, CEO Calgary Health Trust.

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Calgary Health Trust, a catalyst in health care philanthropy, connects donor passion with treatment, education and research priorities in the Calgary community. With more than \$330 million raised for health care since 1996, we help advance technologies, programs and services at Foothills Medical Centre, Peter Lougheed Centre, Rockyview General Hospital, Women's Health, Carewest continuing care centres, community health programs, and other health care organizations in our community. Visit www.calgaryhealthtrust.ca to learn more.

- 30 -

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