

# A.J. Kleinheksel

ajkleinheksel.com

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- Profile**
- Certified healthcare simulation educator with experience in virtual and high fidelity patients
  - Ability to direct complex projects from concept to successful completion
  - Successful collaborator with students, faculty, administrators, & community leaders
  - Seven years of professional experience in higher education administration
  - Trained in agile development processes, project management, & conflict resolution
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**Education**    **Doctor of Philosophy, Curriculum and Instruction**, Educational Technology  
University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida  
*Dissertation: Measuring the Adoption and Integration of Virtual Patient Simulations  
in Nursing Education: An Exploratory Factor Analysis*

**Master of Education, Educational Leadership**  
University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

**Bachelor of Arts, Religious Studies**  
Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan

**Bachelor of Arts, Social Relations and Policy**  
Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan

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**Certifications**    **Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator**, Society for Simulation in Healthcare  
Certificate #161249, Expires November 23, 2019  
**Certified Grant Proposal Writer**, Fort Hays State University Grants Training

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**Employment**    **Educational Researcher**, *Educational Innovation Institute* 2017-present  
**Assistant Professor**, *Department of Medicine*  
Medical College of Georgia, Augusta University, Augusta, Georgia

- Conducts interdisciplinary research on educational technologies in health professions education, including simulation and distance learning, as well as the measurement and assessment of higher-order thinking skills such as clinical reasoning
- Promotes best practices in the design and execution of educational research through faculty consultations and collaborations to support the scholarship of health professions educators
- Provides health professions educators with both innovative and time-tested strategies and technologies to promote educational excellence
- Co-leads and lectures in the Educational Researcher faculty fellowship

**Director of Instructional Design** 2012-2017  
Shadow Health, Gainesville, Florida

- Designed conceptual frameworks, learning activities, assessment instruments, systems architecture, features, and content for clinical simulation experiences and course management systems to ensure effective and engaging learning for students, and impactful and efficient teaching for health professions faculty
- Collaborated with game and graphic designers, software developers, product managers, scriptwriters, executive leadership, subject matter experts, and faculty in an agile environment to design, create, and release innovative digital clinical simulations for health professions education
- Provided oversight and made recommendations based on educational best practices, research-based learning theory, and emerging technological resources to promote innovative teaching and learning
- Created, organized, and standardized product content and documentation in internal content repositories, customer-facing course and assignment product templates, and supplementary materials
- Collaborated on the user interface design of Shadow Health software and the graphic design of supplementary instructional materials, including data visualization, faculty dashboards and gradebooks, and student workbooks
- Designed program evaluations, user testing protocols, and assessment instruments, contributed to the analysis and interpretation of data, and communicated results to stakeholders to facilitate the improvement of products, development cycles, and internal and external training initiatives
- Initiated, developed, and provided guidance for the faculty development program, which consisted of individualized faculty training, customized curriculum integration services, online resources, and regular national webinars
- Conducted consultations with faculty on educational research methods

- Employment (cont.)**     **State Programs Coordinator II**, *Student Financial Affairs*, 2009-2012  
University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida
- Interpreted and implemented legislative changes to state scholarships and grants, directing institutional policy on state programs administration
  - Managed the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, disbursing \$59,843,032 to 25,793 students for the 2011-2012 academic year
  - Designed and produced online educational Florida Bright Futures
  - Administered the Robert C. Byrd, Rosewood Family, José Martí, and Children and Spouses of Deceased and Disabled Veterans scholarships
  - Oversaw system programming; analyzing, testing, and identifying errors, as well as developing and designing the State Programs EAGLE page
  - Conducted a biennial, university-wide survey of current student spending habits, in order to create accurate student financial aid budgets
- State Programs Coordinator I**, *Student Financial Affairs*, 2007-2009  
University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida
- Administered the statewide Frederick W. and Grace P. Brecht Scholarship from application to payment, increasing the number of 2009-2010 Frederick W. and Grace P. Brecht scholars by 30% in two years
  - Led an interdepartmental committee to program the automation of the Frederick W. and Grace P. Brecht Scholarship process
  - Collaborated with Tax Services to pay foreign national student scholarships
  - Managed and reconciled multiple scholarship accounts
  - Presented staff training sessions on scholarship processes
  - Created seven standard operating procedures for the Scholarships and State Programs areas to ensure more accurate and effective training
  - Collaborated with state agencies to administer the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship to out-of-state recipients
  - Evaluated and processed state scholarship petitions
- Student Services Coordinator**, *Professional and Executive MBA Programs*, 2006-2007  
University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida
- Coordinated cohort course materials including orders and distribution
  - Organized events, including orientation, graduation, and networking socials
  - Verified the accuracy of Registrar enrollment lists
- Service-Learning Coordinator**, *AmeriCorps\*VISTA*, 2004-2005  
Warner Southern College, Lake Wales, Florida
- Managed student service-learning, including classroom presentations, scheduling, and attendance supervision
  - Designed and developed materials to promote service-learning
  - Established and maintained professional relationships with Warner Southern faculty and administration, and Polk County School administrators
  - Developed new service-learning partnerships within the community

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**Peer  
Reviewed  
Publications**

- Tien, L., Wyatt, T. R., Tews, M., & **Kleinheksel, A. J.** (Under Review). Simulation as a tool to promote professional identity formation and patient ownership in medical students. *Simulation in Healthcare*.
- Tews, M., Deobald, C., **Kleinheksel, A. J.**, & Treat, R. (Under Review). The relationship between medical student case logs and faculty end-of-shift assessments. *Clinical Teacher*.
- Kleinheksel, A. J.**, Rockich-Winston, N., Tawfik, H., & Wyatt, T. R. (2019). Demystifying content analysis. *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education*, [Special Thematic Issue].
- Schultze, S. R., Mujica, F. C., & **Kleinheksel, A. J.** (2019). Demographic and spatial trends in diabetes-related virtual nursing examinations. *Social Science and Medicine*, 222, 225-230.
- Kleinheksel, A. J.**, & Ritzhaupt, A. (2017). Measuring the adoption and integration of virtual patient simulations in nursing education: An exploratory factor analysis. *Computers and Education*, 108, 11-29.
- Foronda, C., Alfes, C. M., Dev, P., **Kleinheksel, A. J.**, Nelson, D. A., O'Donnell, J. M., & Samosky, J. T. (2017). Virtually nursing: Emerging technologies in health education. *Nurse Educator*, 42(1), 14-17.
- Strekalova, Y. A., Krieger, J. L., **Kleinheksel, A. J.**, & Kotranza, A. (2016). Empathic communication in virtual education for nurses: I'm sorry to hear that. *Nurse Educator*, 42(1), 18-22.
- Strekalova, Y. A., Krieger, J. L., Neil, J., Caughlin, J. P., **Kleinheksel, A. J.**, & Kotranza, A. (2016). I understand how you feel: The language of empathy in virtual clinical training. *Journal of Language and Social Psychology*, 36(1), 61-79.
- Kleinheksel, A. J.** (2014) Transformative learning through virtual patient simulations: Predicting critical student reflections. *Clinical Simulation in Nursing*, 10(6), e301-e308.
- Antonenko, P. D., Lee, B. R., & **Kleinheksel, A. J.** (2014) Trends in the crowdfunding of educational technology startups. *TechTrends*, 58(6), 36-41.

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**Book  
Chapters**

- Kleinheksel, A. J.** (2017). Virtual patients in health professions education. In J. Stefaniak (Ed.), *Advancing medical education through strategic instructional design* (pp. 245-261). Hershey, PA: IGI Global.

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- Presentations** Tien, L. Wyatt, T. R., Tews, M., **Kleinheksel, A. J.** (2019, November). *Exploring third-year medical students' professional identity formation after clinical simulation*. Oral presentation at the Association of American Medical Colleges Learn Serve Lead Conference, Phoenix, AZ.
- Bathala, K., **Kleinheksel, A. J.**, Tews, M. (2019, November) *Faculty adherence to best practices in simulation debriefing: Implications for the development of training programs*. Poster presentation at the Association of American Medical Colleges Learn Serve Lead Conference, Phoenix, AZ.
- Nesbit, R., Ericson, C., Williams, A. Waller, J., Egan, S., Wyatt, T. R., & **Kleinheksel, A. J.** (2019, April). *The surgery clerkship: A longitudinal survey of North American clerkship directors*. Poster presentation at the Association for Surgical Education annual meeting, Chicago, IL.
- Tien, L. Wyatt, T. R., Tews, M., **Kleinheksel, A. J.** (2019, March). *Exploring third-year medical students' professional identity formation after clinical simulation*. Oral presentation at the Southern Group on Educational Affairs annual meeting, Orlando, FL.
- Bathala, K., **Kleinheksel, A. J.**, Tews, M. (2019, March) *Faculty adherence to best practices in simulation debriefing: Implications for the development of training programs*. Poster presentation at the Southern Group on Educational Affairs annual meeting, Orlando, FL.
- Kleinheksel, A. J.** & Tews, M. (2019, March) *Formative assessment of clinical reasoning skills through simulation*. Poster presentation at the Southern Group on Educational Affairs annual meeting, Orlando, FL.
- Tien, L., Wyatt, T. R., Tews, M., & **Kleinheksel, A. J.** (2019, February). *Exploring third-year medical students' professional identity formation after clinical simulation*. Oral presentation at the Southern Regional Meeting of American Federation for Medical Research, New Orleans, LA.
- Tew, M., Reed, T., Lugassy, D., Quinones, D., Owen, J., & **Kleinheksel, A. J.** (2019, January). *"Moving the masses": Conceptual, instructional, and operational considerations for planning and delivering simulation for large numbers of learners*. Oral presentation at the International Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare, San Antonio, TX.
- Bathala, K., **Kleinheksel, A. J.**, & Tews, M. (2019, January). *Measuring facilitator adherence to a structured simulation debriefing model: Implications for training programs*. Poster presented at the International Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare, San Antonio, TX.
- Kleinheksel, A. J.** (2018, November). *Agile instructional design for medical education*. Focused discussion at the Association of American Medical Colleges Learn Serve Lead Conference, Austin, TX.
- Kleinheksel, A. J.**, Wyatt, T. R., Griffin, A., Bailey, M., & Berry, A. (2018, April). *Beyond did you like it?: Expanding models of faculty development evaluation*. Oral presentation at the meeting of the Southern Group on Educational Affairs, Jackson, MS.
- Kleinheksel, A. J.**, Wyatt, T. R., & Gillies, R. A. (2018, April). *To prove or improve? That is the question: The use and misuse of teaching evaluations*. Small group discussion at the meeting of the Southern Group on Educational Affairs, Jackson, MS.
- Kleinheksel, A. J.** & Wyatt, T. R. (2018, April). *Focusing the inner gaze: Action research as a means for scholarship of teaching*. Workshop conducted at the meeting of the Southern Group on Educational Affairs, Jackson, MS.

- Presentations (cont.)** Wood, E., Payne, A. M., Brown, S. P., Wyatt, T. R., & **Kleinheksel, A. J.** (2017, October). *Introducing simulation through a situated cognition framework to integrate physiology into clinical medicine*. Oral presentation at the meeting of the Georgia Educational Research Association, Augusta, GA.
- Wood, E., Wyatt, T. R., & **Kleinheksel, A. J.** (2017, October). *Designing an eGuide for physical examination in pre-clerkship medical education: A pilot study*. Oral presentation at the meeting of the Georgia Educational Research Association, Augusta, GA.
- Wyatt, T. R., **Kleinheksel, A. J.**, Wood, E., Toomey, T. M., & Stepleman, L. M. (2017, October). *Navigating and Building Capacity for Educational Research: An Interactive Website to Ensure Smooth Sailing*. Oral presentation at the meeting of the Georgia Educational Research Association, Augusta, GA.
- Jimenez, F. A., **Kleinheksel, A. J.**, & Kotranza, A. (2017, July). *Hands off: Student experiences in objective data collection in virtual clinical simulation*. Oral presentation at the meeting of the Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Research Congress, Dublin, Ireland.
- Kleinheksel, A. J.**, & Jimenez, F. A. (2017, July). *Who decides?: Analysis of decision-makers in the adoption of virtual patients for nursing education*. Poster presented at the meeting of the Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Research Congress, Dublin, Ireland.
- Strekalova, Y. A., Krieger, J. L., Neil, J., Caughlin, J. P., **Kleinheksel, A. J.**, & Kotranza, A. (2016, April). *Time for empathy: The role of communication skills for improving medical history intake outcomes*. Oral presentation at the meeting of the International Conference on Communication in Healthcare, Heidelberg, Germany.
- Kleinheksel, A. J.** (2016, April). *Integrating virtual patient simulations into the classroom: The SRM model*. Special session presented at the meeting of the Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Education Research Conference, Washington, DC.
- Jimenez, F. A., & **Kleinheksel, A. J.** (2016, April). *Methods for the development and validation of new assessment instruments*. Oral presentation at the meeting of the Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Education Research Conference, Washington, DC.
- Strekalova, Y. A., Krieger, J. L., **Kleinheksel, A. J.**, & Kotranza, A. (2016, April). *I'm sorry to hear that: Empathetic communication in virtual clinical training for nurses*. Oral presentation at the meeting of the Kentucky Conference on Health Communication, Lexington, KY.
- Krieger, J. L., **Kleinheksel, A. J.**, Strekalova, Y. A., & Kotranza, A. (2015, October). *Taming unstructured data: Analyzing empathy skills in virtual clinical training*. Oral presentation at the meeting of the International Conference on Communication in Healthcare, New Orleans, LA.
- Kleinheksel, A. J.** (2014, October). *Transformative Conversations with a Virtual Patient*. Oral presentation at the meeting of the American Academy on Communication in Healthcare, Research and Teaching Forum, Orlando, FL.

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**Teaching**

**Faculty Development Fellowship**, *Educational Research Track*  
Medical College of Georgia, Augusta University, Augusta, Georgia

- Assistant Director, 2018-present
  - Responsible for curriculum design, mentorship, and instruction of fellows
- Lecturer, 2017
  - Overview of Learning Theories
  - Application of Learning Theories in the Construction of a Framework
  - Quantitative Research Design
  - Research Design: Action Research & Mixed Methods Research
  - Choosing Between Statistical Analyses
  - Writing Group Models

**Simulations for Third Year Medical Students**, *Mid-Year Intervention*, 2017, 2018  
Medical College of Georgia, Augusta University, Augusta, Georgia

- Assisted in the design of the simulation scenario
- Designed the assessment instruments
- Facilitated high-fidelity patient simulations and student debriefing sessions

**Faculty Development Fellowship**, *Teaching Scholars Track*, Lecturer, 2018  
Medical College of Georgia, Augusta University, Augusta, Georgia

- Identifying Outcomes, Writing Objectives, & Designing Curriculum

**Interprofessional Education Healthcare Simulation**, *Faculty Training*, 2018  
Interprofessional Simulation Center, Augusta University, Augusta, Georgia

**Social Media for Professional Development**, *Workshop*, 2018  
Medical College of Georgia, Augusta University, Augusta, Georgia

**Managing Emerging Literature with Technology**, *Workshop*, 2017  
Medical College of Georgia, Augusta University, Augusta, Georgia

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**Mentorship**

**Doctoral Committee Member**, Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Health Sciences  
College of Allied Health, Augusta University, Augusta, Georgia  
Christopher Truelove (2022)

**Doctoral Committee Member**, Doctor of Education in Educational Innovation  
College of Education, Augusta University, Augusta, Georgia  
*Leveraging Medical Simulation to Teach Interprofessional Education: A Pilot Study*  
Rebecca Etheridge (2019)  
Kathleen Hernlen (2019)

**Mentor and Supervisor**, Medical Scholars Program  
Medical College of Georgia, Augusta University, Augusta, Georgia  
*Exploring Third-Year Medical Students' Professional Identity Formation After Clinical Simulation*  
Lillie Tien (Summer, 2018)

**Mentor**, Medical Scholars Program  
Medical College of Georgia, Augusta University, Augusta, Georgia  
*Analysis of Faculty Debriefing Practices to Inform Development of Training Programs*  
Keerthana Bathala (Summer, 2018)

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**Service**

- MCG Surgery Simulation Curriculum Committee**, Member 2018-present
- Augusta University Library Advisory Committee**, Member 2018-present
- AAMC MESRE**, SGEA Session Reviewer 2018-present
- SGEA Faculty Development SIG**, Chair 2018-2019
- MCG Simulation Council**, Member 2017-present
- MCG Department of Medicine Translational Research Program**,  
Committee Member 2017-present
- AAMC Education Technology Working Group**, Member 2017-present

**Journal Reviewer**

- BMC Medical Education 2019-present
- American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education 2018-present
- Academic Emergency Medicine Education and Training 2018-present
- MedEdPORTAL 2018-present
- Medical Education Online 2017-present
- Computers & Education 2017-present
- Journal of Educational Computing Research 2015-present

- UF STEM Translation Communication Center**, Affiliate Member 2014-2017
- First Year Florida**, Instructor Fall 2011
- UF Student Affairs Assessment Committee**, Member 2010-2012
- UF Admissions Scholarship Committee**, Member 2010-2012
- UF Student Financial Affairs Cost of Attendance Committee**, Chair 2009-2012
- UF Student Financial Affairs Diversity Committee**, Member 2008-2012
- UF Student Affairs Employee Enrichment & Development**,  
Committee Member 2008-2011
- UF Admissions**, Holistic Admissions Reader 2007-2009