
Medical College of Georgia

Date: August 28, 2019

Re: Recommendation for Dr. A.J. Kleinheksel

To the CHSE-A Committee,

I am writing this letter of recommendation in strong support of Dr. A.J. Kleinheksel's application for her CHSE-A.

I currently serve as the Associate Dean for Educational Simulation, Director of Medical Simulation, and Professor of Emergency Medicine at the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) at Augusta University in Augusta, GA. I have also served as Medical Director of the Augusta University Interdisciplinary Simulation Center. In these roles I have educated and provided guidance to learners and faculty across the spectrum of medical education in matters related to medical education, simulation, and curriculum. I am also a practicing emergency medicine clinician at an academic level one trauma center and at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Dr. Kleinheksel and I both started working at MCG in 2017 and began our collaboration immediately. At that time, there was almost no foundation of simulation at the institution and our simulation center was less than two years old. As I have developed the simulation program from scratch, Dr. Kleinheksel has been instrumental in helping me build a strong foundation for simulation in four key areas: teaching, debriefing, assessment and evaluation, and scholarship.

First, she has taught in multiple courses, mentored students, residents, and faculty, and has created a medical student simulation elective for third- and fourth-year medical students. Specifically, she mentored two education doctorate students who created a "Teaching Interprofessional Education with Simulation" course and then taught in each offering of the curriculum. This was the first interprofessional simulation event for Augusta University's health science faculty. She and I also mentored the first students in a summer research program to produce a scholarly product in educational simulation, teaching them principles of writing, statistical analysis, and education.

Second, she worked with me to develop and implement a new debriefing model that expands on the Gather-Analyze-Summarize model to better align our faculty's debriefing behaviors. In the process, she helped train approximately 50 faculty over one year and also debriefed students for the last two years at a medical student clerkship event for over 200 annual participants. I have found she understands the theories behind debriefing deeply, can teach it to others, and can perform debriefings as well as any of our clinical faculty.

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Third, she has been the driving force behind creating and implementing valid and reliable assessment and evaluation tools for both faculty and learners. Her expertise in this area has led to us having assessment instruments for simulated encounters, case presentations, and debriefing quality. She created our first program evaluation for faculty and learners that allows all of our medical learners in the simulation center to provide programmatic and instructor feedback after a variety of simulation sessions. The feedback obtained from this evaluation continues to provide direction for the program, our faculty, and the simulation center as we continuously work to improve quality and efficiency.

Finally, in the area of research and scholarship she has been especially effective, turning everything she has worked on into a product to be distributed. Namely, in less than two years, she has helped create over a dozen abstracts and presentations on regional, national, and international stages for students, residents, and faculty, with a manuscript publication and multiple projects and manuscripts in the works, all from de novo projects. She has also created the first general simulation institutional review board protocol, facilitating the evaluation of the impact of simulation on medical education. This was approved and provides an umbrella IRB for any medical simulation research that occurs in our simulation center.

While it isn't possible to fit all of Dr. Kleinheksel's contributions and accomplishments related to simulation in this letter, I hope that this provides a framework to understand the invaluable contributions she has made in a very short time to propel the utilization and quality of simulation forward at MCG and the Augusta University Simulation Center. In my opinion, her accomplishments more than qualify her for the CHSE-A recognition.

Please contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Matthew Tews, DO, MS, CHSE, FACEP
Associate Dean for Education Simulation
Director of Medical Simulation Program
Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine
Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University
Phone: 706-721-0030
Fax: 706-721-9304
mtews@augusta.edu