

Dave Wall



On how his background as an RT educator helped him when he went back to school:

“I would read ahead and start creating my own PowerPoint presentation as if I were going to be giving the lecture. I often tell my students to work with peers and study groups and try to teach them, as it will identify your level of understanding for the material.”

On what he wished he knew while he was still an RT student:

“In many ways learning is like a bank account where we save and save and build a wealth of knowledge and skills for a day in the future when we need to withdrawal it and use it. When that day comes you realize how much it matters.”

On someone who inspires you:

“Paul Williams... Throughout Paul’s career he has inspired me as a leader in many ways. One way that I appreciate more and more each time I speak with him is his volunteer work that he has done over his career... He tackles new challenges with optimism and generates a level of respect from all who know him.”

On being a motivating force behind the CSRT Clinical Simulation

Network:

“I realized I wasn’t alone thinking that having a collection of RTs from across the country sharing experiences, offering advice, learning with and from each other would support the RT medical simulation community and strengthen both our delivery of learning opportunities and ultimately our outcomes.”

On the role of the RT simulation community in the advancement of the profession:

“Having this as a community to work with, I envision progression through learning about best practice guidelines and implementation strategies, and ultimately I see opportunities for multicenter national research projects that continue to exemplify RTs as leaders in simulation.”

On his journey to becoming a researcher:

“What I found after participating and performing my own action research study was that I designed a study that I wanted answers for and ultimately I was able to use my own findings to change my practice... I also reached out and relied a lot on people in my institution who have experience with research... I found the process and everyone involved to be supportive and constructive to ensure the project was a success.”

On being an educator:

“I think the best part of the role is the energy and enthusiasm the learners bring each and every day. I love the challenges that come with making learning engaging and real.”

RT Week 2019





David Wall – An RT who shows that teaching is learning

CSRT: Last year, you approached the CSRT about developing something to support the RT simulation community. This grew to become the CSRT Clinical Simulation Network. What led you to approach the CSRT in the first place, instead of looking to other supports within the medical simulation community?

DAVID WALL: Organizations are only as good as the people they are made up of. From my experiences, the CSRT has the right people to make something like this network work. The idea originated from an action research project I completed for my Masters degree, however it sparked to life when I was discussing it with individuals at the CSRT conference in Halifax. I realized I wasn't alone thinking that having a collection of RTs from across the country sharing experiences, offering advice, learning with and from each other would support the RT medical simulation community and strengthen both our delivery of learning opportunities and ultimately our outcomes.

CSRT: How do you envision the work of the RT simulation community supporting the advancement and evolution of the profession?

DAVID WALL: I have been extremely happy to see the Sim Network becoming populated with so many interested individuals. Our ability to advance our practice will come from our collaborative efforts to support initiatives that matter. Having this as a community to work with I envision progression through learning about best practice guidelines, implementation strategies, and ultimately I see opportunities for multicenter national research projects that continue to exemplify RTs as leaders in simulation.

CSRT: Your research on the use of high-fidelity simulation in pre-clinical RT student education was published in the CJRT in 2017. What advice do you have for other RTs who are thinking of performing research?

DAVID WALL: I use to think of research as a one-way street where others perform it and I can learn from them. What I found after participating and performing my own action research study was that I designed a study that I wanted answers for and ultimately I was able to use my own findings to change my practice. My recommendation for individuals who are interested in performing research would be to find something that will impact them and seek evidence to make a difference in their practice. Chances are someone else in our community will find great value in your work as well and it will lead to a butterfly effect of change. I also reached out and relied a lot on people in my institution who have experience with research. This mentorship type of relationship made it easier for me to understand some of the things I previously thought to be intimidating such as applying to the research ethics board, statistical analysis and the peer review process. I found the process and everyone involved to be supportive and constructive to ensure the project was a success.

CSRT: You recently completed your anesthesia assistant education and your Certified Clinical Anesthesia Assistant certification. What insights as an educator were you able to benefit from as a learner?

DAVID WALL: Going back to school when you are usually the teacher was an interesting experience. My AA class was filled with individuals with a wealth of real world experience and I used that to my advantage. Everyone who was in the program came from different hospitals, professions, roles, etc. Each, had great perspective and offered something unique to my learning. I also found myself preparing



to learn as if I were going to teach the material. I would read ahead and start creating my own PowerPoint presentation as if I were going to be giving the lecture. I often tell my students to work with peers and study groups and try to teach them, as it will identify your level of understanding for the material. I very much enjoyed going back to school and sitting on the other side of the “podium” and will continue to look for further opportunities to continue my learning.

CSRT: What do you find to be the most fulfilling aspect of being an educator?

DAVID WALL: I transitioned to the academic side of the profession early in my career and have never looked back. I think the best part of the roll is the energy and enthusiasm the learners bring each and every day. I love the challenges that come with making learning engaging and real. I constantly remind myself that this is the next generation of RTs and we have an opportunity to set them up for a long and successful career. As educators, when a student succeeds it feels like a win for us as well. On the same note, when a student is struggling we feel that pain as well and want to find the right way for them to progress.

CSRT: What do you know now that you wish you knew when you were an RT student?

DAVID WALL: I guess the biggest thing you start to realize after leaving school and venturing in to the real world is how big of an impact you can make in someone’s life. In many ways learning is like a bank account where we save and save and build a wealth of knowledge and skills for a day in the future when we need to withdrawal it and use it. When that day comes, you realize how much it matters. Everything we learn today becomes an action for tomorrow and the difference you make in a patient’s life, their families lives, our peers and co-workers, the healthcare team all depend on us for our knowledge, skill and expertise. I think emphasizing this early on in our training and education may make everyone appreciate that this isn’t just a test your studying for it’s potentially someone’s life.

CSRT: Who is a respiratory therapist that inspires you and what have they done that you find inspiring?

DAVID WALL: That is a tough question as there have been so many individuals who have inspired me throughout my career. However, I am lucky enough to work with one individual who continues to impress me and challenges me to be better every day.

Paul Williams has been a Respiratory Therapist for 30 plus years. His experiences and impact in the world of Respiratory Therapy are massive. To think of how many students Paul has guided over the years is impressive to say the least. Throughout Paul’s career, he has inspired me as a leader in many ways. One way that I appreciate more and more each time I speak with him is his volunteer work that he has done over his career. Paul has been instrumental at many different organizations including the CRTO, CSRT and CBRC. He tackles new challenges with optimism and generates a level of respect from all who know him. Paul is a leader in our profession and I am lucky to have his mentorship and friendship to model myself and career towards.