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Instructor versus peer-led debriefing in simulation-based interprofessional education in undergraduate health professions students

Submission date 12/11/2025	**Recruitment status** Recruiting	[X] Prospectively registered [_] Protocol [_] Statistical analysis plan [_] Results [_] Individual participant data [X] Record updated in last year
Registration date 16/11/2025	**Overall study status** Ongoing	
Last Edited 13/04/2026	**Condition category** Other	

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims
Healthcare students often train together using realistic simulations to learn how to work as a team. After these simulations, a discussion called “debriefing” helps students reflect and improve. Traditionally, these debriefings are led by instructors, which is considered the best approach but requires a lot of staff and resources. This study will explore whether debriefings led by students themselves (peer-led) can be as effective as instructor-led sessions. The goal is to compare the quality of the two methods and see how they affect teamwork skills and professional identity.

Who can participate?
Senior students from health-related colleges in Qatar who are 18 years or older, speak English, and have completed at least one clinical placement.

What does the study involve?
Participants will take part in a full simulation experience, including a briefing before the simulation, the simulation itself, and then a debriefing session. After the simulation, participants will be randomly assigned to either an instructor-led or peer-led debriefing group. They will also complete questionnaires about their experience and learning.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?
Benefits include gaining experience in realistic clinical scenarios, improving teamwork skills, and contributing to research that could improve healthcare education. Risks are minimal and mainly involve the time commitment required for the simulation and surveys.

Where is the study run from?
The study will take place at the Tamayuz Simulation Center at Qatar University.

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
January 2026 to December 2026

Who is funding the study?
The study is funded by internal grants from Qatar University (QUCG-CPH-25/26-826)

Who is the main contact?
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Contact information

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Protocol serial number
QUCG-CPH-25/26-826

Study information

Scientific Title
Peer-led versus instructor-led debriefing in simulation-based interprofessional education (Sim-IPE): a single-centre, parallel-group, non-inferiority randomised controlled trial.

Acronym
Sim-IPE

Study objectives
Current study objectives as of 13/04/2026:

Primary: Determine whether PL debriefing is non-inferior to IL debriefing in perceived debriefing quality among students using DASH-S immediately post-debriefing.
Secondary:
1. To compare the perceived quality of PL versus IL debriefing from the perspective of student and instructor debriefers using the DASH–Instructor Version (DASH-I) tool.
2. To compare students' satisfaction with the simulation and debriefing experience following PL versus IL debriefing using the Satisfaction with Simulation Experience (SSE) tool.
3. To compare the overall team performance based on interprofessional competencies after PL versus IL debriefing, as perceived by students and debriefers, using the Modified McMaster Ottawa scale for teams (MMOS-T).
4. To compare changes in students' interprofessional identity before simulation and following PL debriefing versus IL debriefing, using the Extended Professional Identity scale (EPIS).

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Previous study objectives:

Primary: Determine whether PL debriefing is non-inferior to IL debriefing in perceived debriefing quality among students using DASH-S immediately post-debriefing.
Secondary:
1. To compare the perceived quality of PL versus IL debriefing from the perspective of student and instructor debriefers using the DASH–Instructor Version (DASH-I) tool.
2. To compare students' satisfaction with the simulation and debriefing experience following PL versus IL debriefing using the Satisfaction with Simulation Experience (SSE) tool.
3. To compare the overall team performance based on interprofessional competencies after PL versus IL debriefing, as perceived by students and debriefers, using the Modified McMaster Ottawa scale for teams (MMOS-T).
4. To compare individual students' performance within a team based on interprofessional competencies after PL versus IL debriefing, as perceived by debriefers, using the Modified McMaster Ottawa scale for individuals (MMOS-I).
5. To compare changes in students' interprofessional identity before simulation and following PL debriefing versus IL debriefing, using the Extended Professional Identity scale (EPIS).

Ethics approval required
Ethics approval required

Ethics approval(s)
approved 10/12/2025, IRBNet (Qatar, Doha, 2713, Qatar; +974 4403 7906; qu-irb@qu.edu.qa), ref: QU-IRB 237/2025-EA

Primary study design

Interventional

Allocation
Randomized controlled trial

Masking
Open (masking not used)

Control
Active

Assignment
Single

Purpose
Education

Study type(s)
Efficacy

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
Debriefing, debriefing frameworks

Interventions
Peer-led (PL) post-simulation debriefing (intervention): Peer-led post-simulation debriefing involves a facilitated discussion between two or more peers in which participants review and reflect on their performance to gain insights, enhance learning outcomes, and improve future performance.

Instructor-led (IL) post-simulation debriefing (Comparison): Instructor-led post-simulation debriefing involves a facilitated discussion between participants and instructors in which participants review and reflect on their performance to gain insights, enhance learning outcomes, and improve future performance.

The duration of intervention and debriefing for both study arms is around 90 minutes.

After debriefing, students and debriefers will solve some questionnaires. There will be no follow-up for either study arm, and the intervention will only last for one day. Participants will be voluntarily invited to participate in an interview/focus group discussion afterwards.

The randomization process will be conducted through a computerized randomization tool, and the codes for group assignments will be given to students in sealed envelopes.

Intervention Type
Behavioural

Primary outcome(s)
1. Quality of debriefing in both comparative arms measured using the Debriefing Assessment for Simulation in Healthcare (DASH) Instructor version and the DASH student version at immediately after the intervention (after debriefing)

Key secondary outcome(s))
1. Student satisfaction with the simulation and debriefing measured using the Satisfaction with Simulation Experience tool (SSE) at immediately after the intervention (after debriefing)

2. Students' interprofessional identity measured using the Extended Professional Identity scale (EPIS) at pre-intervention and immediately after the intervention (before simulation and after debriefing)

3. Students' interprofessional competencies as perceived by students and instructors measured using measured using the Modified McMaster Ottawa scale at immediately after the intervention (after debriefing)

Previous key secondary outcome(s):

1. Student satisfaction with the simulation and debriefing measured using the Satisfaction with Simulation Experience tool (SSE) at immediately after the intervention (after debriefing)
2. Students' interprofessional identity measured using the Extended Professional Identity scale (EPIS) at pre-intervention and immediately after the intervention (before simulation and after debriefing)
3. Students' interprofessional competencies as perceived by students and instructors measured using measured using the Modified McMaster Ottawa scale for individuals and teams at immediately after the intervention (after debriefing)

Completion date
31/12/2026

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria
Current key inclusion criteria as of 13/04/2026:

1. Senior health profession students
2. Aged 18 years or older
3. From health colleges across Qatar
4. Have completed at least one clinical placement
5. Able to speak English

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Previous key inclusion criteria:

1. Senior health profession students
2. Aged 18 years or older
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5. Able to speak English

Participants include:
- Medical students from Qatar University (QU) who are in their fourth, fifth, or sixth year of study

- Pharmacy students from QU who are in their fourth or fifth year of study
- Nursing students from QU who are in their third or fourth year of study
- Physical therapy students from QU who are in their third or fourth year of study

Participant type(s)
Healthy volunteer, Learner/student

Healthy volunteers allowed
Yes

Age group
Mixed

Lower age limit
18 years

Upper age limit
99 years

Sex
All

Total final enrolment
0

Key exclusion criteria
1. Students from non-health colleges or universities
2. Under 18 years of age

Date of first enrolment
01/02/2026

Date of final enrolment
31/12/2026

Locations

Countries of recruitment
Qatar

Study participating centre
Qatar University Simulation Center (Tamayuz)
Qatar
Doha
Qatar
2713

Sponsor information

Organisation
Qatar University

Funder(s)

Funder type
Not defined

Funder Name
Qatar University

Alternative Name(s)
QU

Funding Body Type
Government organisation

Funding Body Subtype
Local government

Location
Qatar

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary
Not expected to be made available