

Bellevue Hospital has disaster simulation center; Mannequins shed fake blood, give fake birth



New dummies for medical training at Bellvue Hospital include simulated pregnant women. (WWW.NYC.GOV)

BY

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A medical training center for emergency responders opened Tuesday at [Bellevue Hospital](#) with fully equipped operating rooms populated by mannequins that shed fake blood and suffer the pangs of pretend childbirth.

The [New York Simulation Center for the Health Sciences](#) was created by a partnership of [CUNY](#) and [NYU Langone Medical Center](#) to improve post-9/11 disaster preparedness.

"It was the scope of that catastrophe and the many challenges that it presented that made clear the need to employ our technical knowledge and better train our first responders, our medical professionals and our community service agencies so that as many lives as possible can be saved in the moments of emergency," state [Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver](#) said at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for NYSIM, as it's been nicknamed.

Silver spearheaded efforts to get \$10.4 million in state funding for the facility. The city kicked in an equal sum.

The 25,000-square-foot simulated trauma training center, the nation's largest, will serve medical and nursing students from [NYU](#) and [CUNY](#) schools such as [Borough of Manhattan Community College](#). It will also be used by [New York Downtown Hospital](#), [Lower Manhattan](#) community groups and emergency workers from the [FDNY](#) and the city Office of Emergency Management.

"It is our belief that the training received at this center will increase the likelihood that any one of us, whether stricken by a heart attack or injured by debris from a bomb, will survive," said Dr. Thomas Riles, the center's executive director.

Silver and other guests got an up-close preview of the center's training exercises.

In one room, a mannequin let out frighteningly realistic moans after being "injured" during [Tropical Storm Irene](#). In another, a tiny "newborn" doll wailed after a simulated emergency Cesarean section was performed on its pregnant mannequin-mom.

In another room, Silver said no thanks when asked if he wanted to try taking the pulse of a mannequin that had suffered simulated cardiac arrest, or intubating it.

"I'm a lawyer," Silver said. "I'm a Jewish boy who can't stand blood."

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