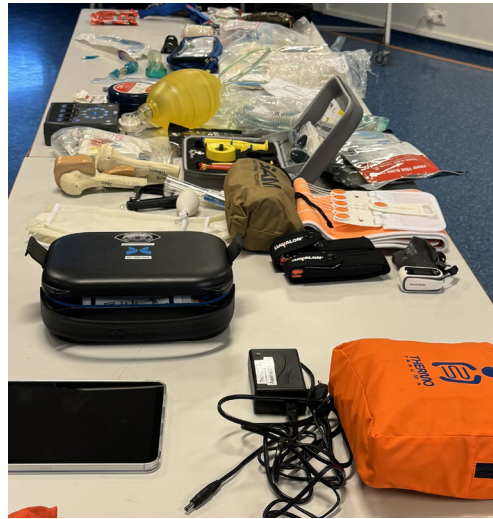


Innovations in Technology and Wilderness Rescue



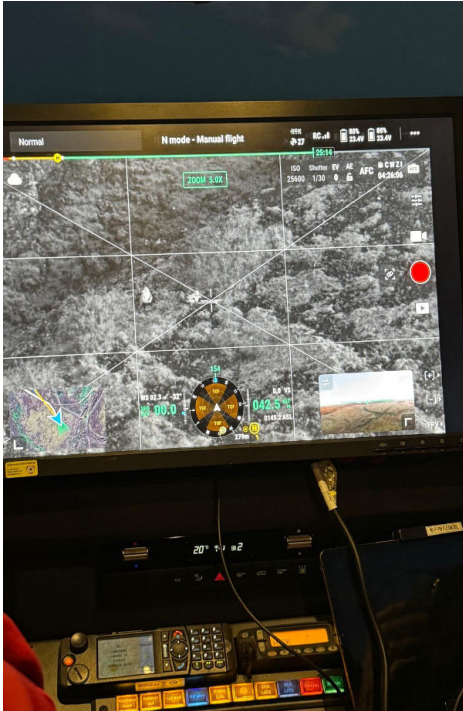
Our Medical Director [Will Smith](#) and Curriculum Director [Julie Anderson](#) recently had the privilege to teach a [WALS](#) course in Iceland with local [Landsbjorg](#) (ICE-SAR) instructor, [Axel Vidarsson](#). This course was immediately following the bustling [RES-CUE24](#) conference in Reykjavik. As with many conferences, the vendor and exhibit areas were full of exciting new technology and innovative tools. Presentations, including one each from Dr. Smith and Axel, discussed how to apply technology in ways that improve remote medicine. Our WALS class participants took time to survey and discuss appropriate medical technology in the remote and extended care context, and even trial some of it during a large-scale night simulation.



Instructors had equipment staged for WALS students to explore as a module during the course. Our instructors aren't sponsored by any products, and anything that was shown here was either owned by the instructors or on loan from local departments. People applied the "Ideal to Real" concept as they discussed these items as a group, including factors like weather durability, reliable performance in a long-term care environment, necessity, versatility, cost, weight, maintenance, training requirements, and more.



After the discussion, Dr. Will assisted a critical care nurse with performing an ultrasound-guided [E-FAST exam](#) to determine surgical urgency in a trauma patient.



Drones were a hot topic at RESCUE24. Landsbjorg has skilled drone operators who participated in the night simulation. When combined, the expertise and teamwork between the ground search members and the drone operators resulted in finding and accessing 8 patients spread among the taiga in just under 20 minutes.

When does technology add something that we can't determine with clinical assessment, seeking patterns, and monitoring vital sign trends? That question is something to consider when reviewing technology like this earbud, which can monitor pulse oximetry, heart rate, and tympanic temperature, sent in real time to a phone app.

Oftentimes, technology is enhancement of a tried-and-true concept. The team also experimented with rechargeable heating vests, comparing them to charcoal heater blankets. Portable shelters provided the best warming tools, per the patients and rescuers.



What is your favorite piece of wilderness medicine equipment or technology?

