

IMSH DAILY

DAY THREE January 13, 2025



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INCOMING PRESIDENT-ELECT SHARES PERSPECTIVE



Aaron Calhoun

As the Incoming President-Elect for the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH), Aaron Calhoun, MD, FSSH, is an internationally recognized expert in simulation-based research and education.

Reflecting on the current state of healthcare simulation, Calhoun offered, "From my perspective, it seems to be really growing at an incredibly fast pace. I became engaged with this Society as a fairly new physician, right out of training back in 2007. And back then, we were just still trying to prove that this way of doing education was useful. Now, it isn't just assumed, it's expected that every place will have a simulation center. So the amount of growth I've seen over the past 18 years has been exponential, and I think that provides ever-increasing relevance to our organization, because we're the ones who steward this approach.

Our organization isn't about a specific content area; rather, it's about a way to teach. It's about a way to do safety. It's about a way to do quality improvement. We have

something that almost everybody needs. I see that need only rising, and I see our relevance only increasing."

In terms of specific trends within that overall growth, he likened the current environment to a "late adolescent / young adult stage of a new field," where people coming into it are supported by critical pillars like certification and accreditation.

"We're moving to a formalized, very advanced way of handling the field," he said. "This type of growth happens with most fields, and I'd say we're at an inflection point where we have a lot we can contribute to something that's now becoming fairly standard and a more formal way of doing things than it was when I started. And I >

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SUNDAY PLENARY BRINGS RECOGNITION AND FUTURE-PROOFING

Sunday's Plenary at the International Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare (IMSH) opened with announcements from IMSH Planning Team Co-chairs Kati Maxkenzie, MBA, EMT-P, CHSESHS, CHSOS-A, CHSE, Kyle Johnson, PhD, RN, CHSE, ANEF and Shannon DiMarco, MSHS, CHSOS, who focused their comments and suggestions on the strong professional foundation already taking shape at IMSH 2025.

"Yesterday was a fantastic first day, and today promises us to be just as exciting," Johnson began. "We were thrilled to see everyone as we officially opened up our Exhibit Hall yesterday. If you haven't had a chance >

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TODAY AT IMSH

Monday, January 13

Plenary Session – The Michael S. Gordon Center Lecture on Medical Education featuring Col. Nicole Malachowski, USAF (Ret.)
Room 415 – 8:15-9:30 am

Exhibit Hall Open
Exhibit Hall – 9:30 am-3:00 pm

Research Posters Displayed
Exhibit Hall – 9:30 am-3:00 pm

Technology Experiential Area
Exhibit Hall – 9:30 am-3:00 pm

Lunch
Exhibit Hall – 11:30 am-2:00 pm

What's New in Sim Showcase
Exhibit Hall Theatre – 12:00-1:30 pm

SSH Corporate Roundtable Learning Labs
Rooms 221C, 221D – 9:45-10:45 am

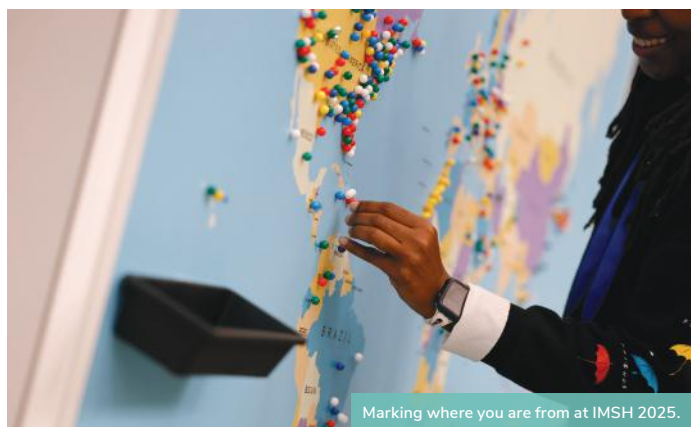
SSH Fellows Main Stage Presentation: Virtuous Cycle of AI, Simulation and QI
Room 415 – 2:00-3:30 pm

Tuesday, January 14

SSH Presents: Closing Plenary Session featuring Michelle Poler
Room 415 – 8:15-9:30 am







See the **SSH Events App** for schedule and topic updates



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<> already to check it out this is your opportunity to connect with different vendors, innovators and thought leaders who are expanding the future of healthcare simulation. Whether you're interested in the latest technology or simply want new ideas, the Exhibit Hall has something for everyone."

"Today, the buzz continues in the Exhibit Hall with the SimVentors Showcase during lunch," Maxkenzie added. "These showcases are an incredible way to dive deeper into innovation, home-grown solutions and cutting-edge advancements. So whether you're an educator, a clinician or just a tech enthusiast, there's something here for you to take back to your organizations."

Johnson concurred, adding, "Today, as we dive into our educational sessions, it's about building on the energy of yesterday, connecting with each other and thinking boldly about the future. Take this opportunity to ask questions, share insights and engage with the amazing talent that's in this room. Together, we're not just looking back at what we've achieved. We're reaching forward into the future."

SSH President Barry Issenberg, MD, FSSH then took the stage to present a number of awards to recognize individuals and organizations who have demonstrated excellence across the healthcare simulation arena.

The Bob Waters Scholarship Award honors the memory of its namesake to help support students in healthcare simulation. To be eligible for this scholarship, applicants must be either a full-time or part-time resident or fellow, with this year's recipient being Samuel Robinson.

The Beverlee Anderson Educational Scholarship Award provides support for recipients to attend IMSH. The needs-based scholarship supports healthcare simulation professionals who otherwise would not be able to attend IMSH, with priority given to applicants who are attending for the first time and come from low budget organizations.

The recipients for 2025 included Mustafa Manzur, Aleksandrs Oborins, Laura Schumpert and Helen Welsh.

PIONEER IN SIMULATION

Issenberg next delivered the 2025 Pioneer in Simulation award posthumously to Howard Barrows, MD who was recognized for his contributions and legacy that has inspired educators and influenced educational curricula around the world. During many live and video tributes, Barrows was characterized as a transformative leader in health professions education whose pioneering contributions have left a profound impact on the field.

One former associate noted that, as a neurologist turned educator, Barrows introduced groundbreaking methodologies that



Jerry Kruse (left) accepts Pioneer in Simulation award from Barry Issenberg (right) on behalf of Dr. Howard Barrows.

shifted traditional teaching models to more dynamic and practical approaches, with his foremost achievement being the creation of Standardized Patient (SP) methodology that fundamentally altered health professions education.

In one video segment, Lou Clark, PhD, MFA and current President of the Association of SP Educators (ASPE) honored Barrows' legacy "on behalf of our nearly 1000 members, hailing from 44 countries around the globe," adding, "We are excited to be honoring Dr. Howard Barrows today. His vision inspired our entire SP education profession into existence."

Accepting the award on Barrows' behalf was Jerry Kruse, MD, MSPH, Dean and Provost of the Southern Illinois University (SIU) School of Medicine and Chief Executive Officer of SIU Medicine.

I am honored to accept this award on behalf of the late and the very great Dr. Howard Barrows," Kruse said. "In the video you saw testimony to his great work, his fearlessness, his innovation and his artistic vision. Dr. Barrows' work has provided benefit for millions and millions of people, for better education of countless physicians and all healthcare clinicians and for better medical care for people across the entire globe."

Issenberg then presented Presidential Citation Awards to honor groups who have served the healthcare simulation community, with awards going to the Association of SP Educators, the SSH Accreditation Council and Dr. Edgar Herrera, President of the Mexican Society for Simulation in Health Sciences (SOMESICS).

LOU OBERNDORF LECTURE

The awards were followed by brief comments from Lou Oberndorf, sponsor of the Lou Oberndorf Lecture on Innovation and Healthcare Simulation.

He noted that previous Oberndorf lecturers had talked about failure and success, as

well as the very thin line that often separates those two states, continuing, "We've heard all of that. In 25 years, we've experienced enormous growth, an enormous change in medicine, in medical education and in our societies. We've become global. I reflect back on 1994 when I first saw the human patient simulator at the University of Florida, thinking, 'This is really unique, and it's so obvious. Why hasn't medicine adopted it?' Well, your administrators were skeptics back 25 to 30 years ago, but you brought them along to the point where this technology, experiential learning, medical education and Dr. Barrows' contribution have now become totally mainstream globally."

He then introduced guest speaker Crystal Washington, a noted futurist and technology strategist, who shared her powerful perspectives on the future and offered ways for the audience to "future-proof" themselves to address a rapidly changing future at both individual and organizational levels.

"This is such an incredible place to be right now, as you're looking back and reaching forward," she began, observing, "This is an industry that didn't even exist 30 years ago. So whether you think of yourselves in this way or not, you're already future-forward. We just have to figure out what we're going to do in the next 25 years."

Addressing the reality of an increasing rate of change, she emphasized that it is increasing to a point that we can't always anticipate what is coming up next, crediting that increase to several factors, including shrinking business cycles, the fact that technology innovation itself is also speeding up and the fact that humans are becoming "stressed out cyborgs."

In addition to some audience exercises, she provided attendees with both personal approaches and resources to support their own future-proofing.

She concluded, "As we leave it to a close now I want you to remember, going forward, you are already part of a future-focused industry. You are literally training healthcare professionals to have better future outcomes with their patients. This is what you do. You're still a young industry, and that's great because it means you have agility that some of the industries don't have. So in terms of future-proofing, all you have to do is give up that belief that you have to 'get caught up' and instead be curious, and use some of the resources you downloaded that will help walk you through some of the steps to future-proofing, both yourself and your organizations...As I leave this day, just know I'm a huge fan of yours. Please continue to do the important work that you're doing that saves lives, and I wish you all the best as you future-proof. 🌍"



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think not only have we led the way, I think we continue to lead the way.”

Calhoun addressed this year’s IMSH conference theme – *Looking Back, Reaching Forward* – observing, “We have a legacy to look back on, a legacy of driving change, a legacy of helping this field to become everything that it can be, of forming new relationships. So to me, this is an interesting inflection point to look back and appreciate where we’ve come from, appreciate all the things we’ve done, reflect deeply on what we’ve accomplished, and then ask ourselves the question of, where does that trajectory lead us, and how do we want to steer the ship as we move forward?”

He offered his personal perspective that the Healthcare Simulation 2050 Forum at IMSH 2025 was a tremendous event, providing a meeting place for different organizations to come together and discuss issues.

“I think one of the things that we have really been trying to do is develop and form as many relationships as possible,” he said. “The relationships that we form now are going to help establish how we go forward in the future. I think that we’re at a position where we have something to offer many others. So bringing a diverse group together to make deliberate plans going forward is helping to energize everything we are doing.”

Looking to his roles and goals over the next two years, Calhoun said, “One of the things that I ran on was this idea that we are a large international organization and that it’s our job to think about ways of creatively engaging with the international community. I think we have a lot of opportunities to really enhance our visibility, to enhance our usefulness to the field, not just across North America, but across the world. I think we’ve already done that, but I think we’re now at a point where we can really take off with it. And I’d like to look for ways of enhancing that over time.”

He continued, “My training is actually as a researcher, and so I come from a research background. And one thing that I would like to do is find ways of capitalizing on the success of our 2023 Research Summit. The goal of that summit was to gather information and perform ongoing reviews that enabled us to identify the state of the field, where the holes were, and to be able to create evidence-based guidelines. Many fields do this. So what that’s done is spark a lot of interest to figure out how we can deepen that engagement, so that we’re not just advocating for the field, but we’re also driving the knowledge that’s necessary to

make that advocacy possible. So over the next couple years, I hope to really lean into ways of enhancing that and developing new mechanisms within the Society to assure that we are staying on the cutting edge of research, not just in terms of academic research, but technology developments as well.”

He added, “Another thought I would like to share is that we live at a time where there are a lot of technological developments coming very quickly in areas like virtual reality, generative AI and large language models. And what I’d like to make sure is that we stay ahead of those developments, not just doing what everybody else is doing with them, but looking at creative ways of integrating them with what we do with simulations that can real-

“ The relationships that we form now are going to help establish how we go forward in the future. I think that we’re at a position where we have something to offer many others. ”

ly take workload off of family practitioners and that can enable us to have more consistent and deeper outreach to low- and middle-income areas and to other countries. I think there’s a lot that can be done with this technology to make this method of doing education and quality improvement accessible to more people across the globe. I believe we are only thinking of some of those things now, and so I’m looking out a couple of years of fairly significant creativity and asking, ‘What are these new tools and how do we put them together in ways that really let us do what we’re doing more efficiently, but also pull more people and more programs into this really fruitful way of doing things that we were unable to access before?’”

Asked about challenges that he sees with these new technologies, Calhoun offered his belief that “a lot of the technology could wind up driving us,” observing, “For example, I think there’s tremendous potential for AI. I also think that it could possibly remove the human element if we’re not careful. So I think one challenge is looking at the technology we have and asking, ‘How do we use this in the most fruitful way and how do we use this in a way that empowers people rather than disempowers?’ Technology is a double-edged sword, and I think that by being in the role that we’re in as an organization, we can really

start to ask some of those hard questions as to not what can we do, but what should we do, and how should we do it in a way that benefits the membership, certainly, but also this entire field that we represent across the world? What can we do to empower people to be better versions of the educators they are?”

In his takeaway message for IMSH attendees, Calhoun stated, “I think that it’s easy to come to a conference year after year, maybe present the same thing, or maybe engage in the same workshops, and then say, ‘Well, what’s next?’ And the fact is that there’s a lot that’s next. This is our biggest conference ever, which means not only more attendees that you’ve never met, but more programs, more offerings in terms of educational sessions and differ-

ent content. So I really have three points I want to share. The first, especially if you’re new, is to engage deeply with the content. Spend time looking at the program; figure out what you want to go to. Don’t just go to things that you’re comfortable with. Go to things where you’ve never explored before. It might be interesting to learn new things, so use this as a way to engage in a deeper level.

Another thing I’d encourage is to really spend a lot of time networking. SSH has been my professional home for 18 years now, and I would say some of the deepest relationships I’ve formed professionally have been in this organization or through this organization. So look for like-minded people. Or perhaps look for people that maybe aren’t like-minded, but are doing something that you might be interested in, that can allow you to diversify your thought process. Get their number. Get their card. Develop projects. Collaborate. This is a great place to develop those collaborations.

And then the final thing I would say is, don’t just attend. Get involved. Get involved with SSH. Get involved with a Committee, or a Special Interest Group or an Affinity Group. These are pathways towards professional advancement. Don’t just come and be a spectator. Come and be a contributor.” 🌍

FOUNDATION FOR HEALTHCARE SIMULATION SAFETY TRANSITIONS TO SSH



The Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH) and the Foundation for Healthcare Simulation Safety (FHSS) are in the final stages of a transition in which the simulation safety work of FHSS will shift to SSH. This includes ownership and distribution of the well-recognized “Not for human use/Education only” sticker resource as well as the promotion of safe simulation practice for participants, educators and patients.

According to SSH Associate Executive Director Andrew Spain, PhD, MA, EMT-P, the changeover is “almost all there,” adding that they’re waiting on the upcoming new SSH website to finalize the transfer of the FHSS information. “But ultimately, it’s ready to flip over to completely residing in our wheelhouse,” he said, noting that the FHSS name will be carried over, though the Foundation will close and no longer be a separate non-profit organization.

Spain continued, “We’ve put up [on the current SSH website] what’s needed for right now,” and said that the safety stickers are currently available on the SSH website [ssih.org] under the “Resources/Merchandise” menu. “And we’re engaging the Education Committee, which is going to be its home, for oversight in mapping the plan for really leaning into promoting research into simulation safety and getting the stories out; all those things that are part of fundamentally safe simulation.”

FHSS co-founder Ann Mullen, MSN, CHSE explained the origins of the Foundation, going back to 2014 when co-founder Dan Raemer, PhD expressed his concerns in an editorial about the possibility of simulation actually resulting in patient harm. “Since simulation is really all about patient safety,” Mullen said, “that seemed like the opposite of what we would want to do,” and, having similar concerns, she and Raemer engaged in early discussions about actions they could take.

Only a few months later, in December 2014, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration reported that 45 patients were exposed to a nonsterile intravenous fluid that was intended only for the simulation of IV infusion, resulting in multiple patient adverse effects.

This incident prompted immediate further discussions between Mullen, Raemer and others in simulation regarding strategies to avoid potential harmful effects from items designed for use in simulation. This included the importance of labeling simulation products, but “the thing that we noticed was that everybody was doing something a little bit different,” Mullen said, “and we thought one of the things we might do would be to try to have a unified labeling system. So that was our first project.”

Mullen said in order to have a structure to do that, they created FHSS as a non-profit


organization and began selling the labels on their website, noting that over the years there has been a great deal of interest. She said, “One of the SSH accreditation standards is that you have to have a policy for how you’re going to manage medication safety, and what we’re hearing from our colleagues is that a lot of places use these labels as part of that strategy to comply with that accreditation standard.”

“Even though the labels are the most visible part of our work, it really is only one small part of it,” Mullen said. “What we’ve really tried to do is start conversations about avoiding unintended consequences and adverse events related to simulation. The labels are one part of it, but I think the bigger part of it is engaging with those in simulation about strategies for preventing adverse simulation effects.”

Late in 2023, Mullen said that she, as a Foundation Director, along with Directors Raemer and Alex Hannenber, MD, realized that “no organization is going to do well if it doesn’t put in place a transition plan. We started the conversation and wrote a proposal asking SSH if they would take over this work, and they were in full agreement. They thought it was a great idea.”

With the work of the Foundation shifting to SSH, Mullen said, “We’re most excited about that, because we created the Foundation in order to get the work started, and I feel that we’ve got a lot to be proud of; that there are many more conversations around this topic. People are more aware of potential hazards, and the fact that it’s in the accreditation standards is huge. At the same time, we are a small group of volunteers,” she added, “so to hand this off to SSH, which has the reach and the skill and the staff, will enable this to be even more well known.”

Spain said that safety labels, conversations about simulation safety and research on the topic are all parts of the puzzle, observing, “You have to have this integrated effort of lots of different ways to promote safety so people in simulation don’t get hurt,” he said.

Regarding the transition, he summarized, “We’ll still call it the Foundation for Healthcare Simulation Safety and carry that tradition on – their goals, their vision – and work to grow it over time and help expand it.” 

SIMULATION-GROUNDED COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION AFFINITY GROUP

As simulationists, we are searching for resources and tools to help support our organizations mitigate challenges and embrace opportunities. The Simulation-Grounded Competency-Based Education Affinity Group (SG-CBE AG) was established to support a collaborative networking community that learns with, from and about each other's use of simulation in competency-based education (CBE) and advance the integration of high-quality simulation in CBE while driving its evolution through strategic simulation use.

Simulation-based and CBE have revolutionized the training and education of health professionals in the 21st century. With many healthcare professional organizations adopting and promoting competency-based education, we recognize the expertise and innovation that has brought us to this point. At the same time, we acknowledge the pressing need to reach forward, embracing new challenges and opportunities to optimize the use of simulation education to support CBE.

SG-CBE AG goals include:

- Promoting a learner-centered approach: We prioritize educational strategies that meet individual learners' needs and support competency development. By focusing on the learner's growth, we can design simulations that are engaging and tailored to each stage of skill acquisition.
- Facilitating feedback and reflection: Feedback is essential in CBE to provide learners with clear insights into their progress. By fostering reflection, we encourage learners to internalize lessons and refine their skills, creating a culture of continuous improvement among learners and educators.
- Enhancing assessment and longitudinal tracking: Continuous assessment allows educators to track learner development over time, offering high-quality feedback and using validated assessment tools. This approach supports a developmental and holistic view of learning, essential for CBE.
- Advancing instructional design: By exploring new instructional strategies, we can identify methods that maximize

simulation's effectiveness in competency education. Our focus is on developing simulation practices that address specific competencies in real-world scenarios.

- Addressing operational challenges: As simulation continues to expand, so, too, do the logistical and technological challenges associated with it. The SG-CBE AG provides a forum for addressing resource management, technology adoption, and program evaluation, sharing successful practices and solutions for these practical challenges.

This inaugural year for SG-CBE AG marks a pivotal moment, where we not only leverage lessons from the past but also lay the groundwork for a future rich in innovation, strategic use of simulation, and shared best practices. We have lofty goals, but feel they are achievable. Our hope is to build an interprofessional and interdisciplinary community where members can connect, share, and develop best practices that advance the integration of high-quality simulation in CBE and drive its evolution through strategic simulation. The SG-CBE AG can provide a unique platform for networking to raise awareness of best practices, aligning high-quality healthcare simulation with CBE, as well as provide opportunities for research and innovation.

As a newly formed group, we are still developing and determining what the community wants. At IMSH and beyond, we encourage all members to reflect on their experiences and expertise in simulation to help shape the future of the SG-CBE AG, and we seek your input regarding what you want and need from your membership. We want to be able to serve the needs of our members in advancing and integrating simulation and CBE.

Let us unite to bridge the past with the future, continuing the journey of excellence and equity in healthcare simulation and education. As you learn and network here at IMSH, we hope that you will look back on your expertise in simulation and reach forward to apply it to the challenge of competency-based education! 🌍

By Curtis Nickel, MD, Med, FRCPC and Marie Gilbert, DNP, RN, CHSE-A



SIMVENTORS AWARDS

One of the unique aspects of the International Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare (IMSH) is the SimVentors Innovation Awards, which are designed to support innovation and invention in simulation technology and techniques that help advance healthcare simulation into the future.

This year's SimVentors program was held in the Exhibit Hall, with winners announced early Sunday afternoon. Award winners included:

- SimVentors Impact Award: A Cut Above - Allen Ecker
- SimVentors Innovation Award: System to Visualize, Measure and Track Simulated Wounds in 3D - Mindi Anderson, Salam Daher, Frank Guido-Sanz, Dahlia Musa
- SimVentors Approach Awards: "iNEAT" Intranasal - Narcan Education and Training Kiosk Challenge - Jo Holt and Laura Varnier
- SimVentors People's Choice Award: Device and Simulator to Evaluate Harmful Noxious Stimulus During Neurologic Assessment - Kyle Cooper, Tanish Madan, and Geoffrey Miller

INTRODUCING THE ASSESSMENT AFFINITY GROUP

The Assessment Affinity Group is dedicated to advancing excellence in formative and summative assessment within the field of healthcare simulation. Our mission is to promote the development, dissemination and implementation of innovative and evidence-based assessment strategies to enhance the effectiveness and impact of healthcare simulation education and training.

WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

We are committed to bringing together educators, researchers and practitioners from diverse healthcare disciplines to collaborate, share insights and collectively develop and implement the most effective formative and summative assessment, and identifying, establishing and promoting best practices in formative and summative assessment techniques for healthcare simulation. We endeavor to optimize learner outcomes in healthcare simulation by leveraging assessment data to provide targeted feedback, identify learning gaps and design personalized learning experiences that align with individual needs.

As advocates for accreditation in assessment, we aim to raise awareness within the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH) and beyond about the critical role assessment plays

in improving healthcare education and patient care and provide a source of support for the assessment accreditation standard. We seek to continuously improve the quality and standardization of assessment practices in healthcare simulation and further ensure review and refinement of simulation cases and sessions through assessment of learner feedback.

WHO SHOULD BE A PART OF THE ASSESSMENT AFFINITY GROUP?

The target audience for this group includes professionals and stakeholders involved in healthcare simulation and education. Specifically, the group aims to engage simulation educators and operations specialists who design, deliver and facilitate simulation-based formative and summative assessments. This would include simulation program managers, directors and standardized patient program coordinators. Researchers investigating assessment methods, validity, reliability and the impact of simulation-based education on learner outcomes would benefit from the group's focus on evidence-based assessment practices.

HOW ARE WE PLANNING TO MEET SSH MEMBERSHIP'S NEEDS RELATED TO ASSESSMENT?

We began rolling out our initial set of work groups, which are just forming. We encourage everyone to consider becoming an active part of the Affinity Group as a whole and focusing efforts to one or more of these work groups:

- Formative Assessment Modalities and Considerations
- Summative Assessment Modalities and Considerations
- Communication and Interprofessional Skills Assessments
- Competency-based Assessment
- Use of AI in Assessment
- Teamwork Assessment

Together we can have an immeasurable impact on simulation-based assessment.

We invite you to find one of us and join through SimConnect. We look forward to leading simulation assessment into the future with you!

Assessment Affinity Group leadership:

Jason Konzelmann, MEd, CHSE, CHSOS, FSSH, Chair; Shannon Ashe, EdD, LAT, ATC, CHSE, CSCS, Vice-Chair; Shandra Jamison, MA, RRT, CHSOS, Secretary

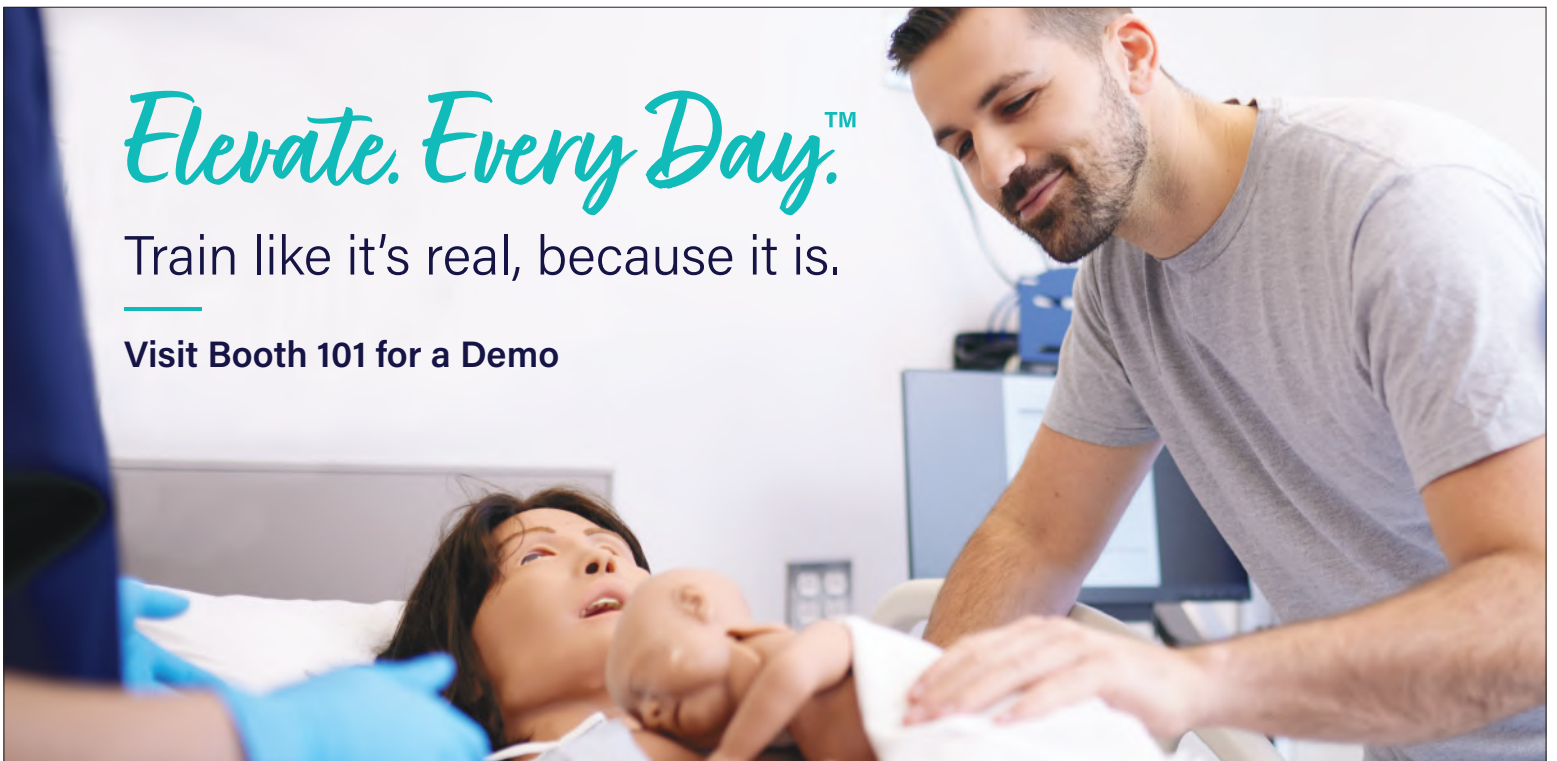
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Reggie Dye, EMS Chief Revenue Officer, explains the Training in Motion system.

EDUCATION MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS HIGHLIGHTS TRAINING IN MOTION SOLUTION

Education Management Solutions [Booth 400] is utilizing IMSH 2025 to showcase its latest innovations in simulation and competency solutions, including its state-of-the-art mobile system, *Training in Motion*, a simulation capture and debrief solution for higher education and healthcare systems.

Matt Merino, Chief Executive Officer of Education Management Solutions (EMS) spoke in broad terms about the growth of healthcare simulation at the IMSH 2025 Opening Plenary Session. "It's truly remarkable in 25 years how much the world of simulation has grown, and how much further we still must go to continue improving all aspects of education and care in the rapidly changing healthcare ecosystem," he said. "This week is an opportunity to make new connections, learn from our peers, collaborate around opportunities and experience the innovative technologies that will drive us forward for the next 25 years in simulation. This week also affords us a chance to reflect and celebrate on how far along the journey we have already gone and celebrate and honor those that have played an integral role."

In fact, with a 30-year history in the domain, EMS represents one of those entities

that has played an integral role in healthcare simulation.

"We're one of the leaders and pioneers in this space of having AV [audio and visual] equipment and simulation software," said Reggie Dye, EMS Chief Revenue Officer. "We largely serve the higher education, healthcare and military markets."

"I think one of the things that differentiates us is the fact that we're agnostic when it comes to simulators, so we can integrate with any major simulator," Dye said. "Another differentiator is that we're a 'one-stop shop,' since we integrate the AV and software together. We also have a top-notch, award-winning support system."

Dye said that in addition to *Training in Motion*, EMS is also showing its simulation software, *Enterprise* and, he said, "a lot of folks are interested in talking about our Competency solution as well, which is what allows organizations to make sure that learners are progressing toward whatever standards that they need to; helping make sure they progress toward being proficient clinicians, tracking and monitoring that, to make sure they're able to be practice-ready as soon as possible and to shorten that time."

Mike Pote, EMS Chief Administrative Officer, echoed that, adding, "We're moving a

lot into competency-based solutions so that we really support workforce development, student development and curriculum-based education."

Pote pivoted to describing the *Training in Motion* solution, which, he said, "is portable and helps provide a full simulation experience on the go."

Pote described some of the system's features, including cameras that can be mounted fixed or placed on tripods. "They work as their own independent wireless system, so you can take those anywhere – inside or outside – and do all your recordings, your debriefs, your assessments. You can bundle that with a Competency solution. We really have a 360-degree simulation solution."

Other features, Dye described, include monitoring and recording scenarios. Connected to a manikin, he said, for example, you can monitor vital signs and assess if the learner is taking the right steps. While recording, you can add bookmarks to refer back to for evaluating learners' performance. The system includes 300 hours of video storage, and the information can also be uploaded to the cloud.

"It's integrated with Zoom and Teams, so you can do live training exercises, and remote participants can see exactly what's going on during the exercise," Pote added. "And it all packs into this black case that's completely transportable on wheels, so you just take it wherever you need to go, unpack it, and within two or three minutes, you're up and running."

Dye said all of their solutions "integrate together very seamlessly. So if someone were to start off with our *Training in Motion* solution because they didn't have a simulation space, as they developed one, they'd be able to still use this to integrate with our *Enterprise* system in that simulation space. So it grows with you and is scalable as an organization takes on more and more simulation responsibilities."

Dye said that they at EMS look forward to engaging with attendees, educating people about EMS simulation solutions and developing good leads for follow-up discussions.

Summarizing what he most hopes the healthcare community takes away from visiting the EMS booth at IMSH 2025, Pote said, "Really, it's that we're able to provide a complete solution. You don't have to take bits and pieces from a bunch of different places. We can do the AV installation. We can do the development of the programming. We can provide the entire simulation experience with whatever modality you're trying to accomplish without having to go anywhere else. And then we can support it all the way." 🌍

SSH HIGHLIGHTS

ASCEND MILESTONE

The Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH) recently announced the first cohort of its new Advancing Simulation Careers & Empowering Next-Generation Development (ASCEND) Program. This prestigious initiative recognizes emerging leaders in healthcare simulation who demonstrate exceptional leadership potential, innovation and commitment to advancing the field.

ASCEND represents a new recognition initiative designed to identify, support and develop early-career healthcare simulationists with exceptional leadership potential. The initiative offers recognition and provides participants with opportunities to engage with SSH's established leadership, helping to shape the future of the simulation community.

The program seeks to identify, recognize, and nurture healthcare simulationists with strong leadership potential who are in the early stages of their simulation careers (less than six years). In doing so, ASCEND will support the development of future leaders in healthcare simulation while ensuring the growth and sustainability of SSH leadership.

The program is open to all healthcare simulationists from the global community, including students, residents, fellows, operations specialists, researchers, educators, innovators and industry professionals. SSH membership is not required to apply.

The 2024 ASCEND cohort includes 20 individuals selected from a competitive global applicant pool:

JENNIFER ALLEGRO
 CIARA BERRY
 AMY CHOW
 LAUREN COLLINS
 JAZMIN ARELY CORRAL
 DAN DEWEERT
 JANELLA DILONE
 MARCO ANTONIO ESCAREAL
 SILVIA ETCHEVERRY
 KELLY GRACE
 JASON HARLEY
 ABDULKERIM K IBRAHM
 MEREDITH JOYNER
 KAVITA MANDRELLE

SOFIA CONTRERAS MEDINA
 TIFFANIE M NABINGER
 IQRA NAVROZ
 TUNG DINH NGUYEN
 ZACHARY NUZUM
 GREG PAGEL


The participants were recognized during this week's SSH President's Diamond Ball at the International Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare (IMSH) 2025 and will now receive mentorship from established leaders in healthcare simulation and engage in tailored professional development opportunities.

SSH President Barry Issenberg, MD, FSSH highlighted the ASCEND program during the IMSH Opening Plenary Session on January 11, 2025. In his review of first-

year accomplishments under the 2024 SSH Strategic Plan, Issenberg said, "The last pillar [of the SSH Strategic Plan] is organizational sustainability and growth—together in one area. It's about our infrastructure. You'll hear over the next coming months about the launch of a new website and the launch of a new association and learning management system. But for the Society, for the Board of Directors, a key component of our organization's sustainability and growth is our future leaders. And we're so proud this year to launch the inaugural ASCEND Program, which is identifying emerging leaders, providing mentorship opportunities and professional development opportunities, because as a Society, if we want to be here for the next 25 years, it's about the people. And we're committed to ensure that those entering simulation now are going to be our leaders in the future. We're committed to their support. We're so proud of this program and encourage everyone throughout the world to apply each year."

ASCEND will be an annual initiative with a call for applications each year. The selected cohort will be recognized at IMSH and mentored throughout the following year. 🌍


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INTRODUCING THE RESPIRATORY CARE AFFINITY GROUP

Respiratory therapists (RTs) are experts in the art and science of cardiopulmonary care. An integral part of the healthcare team, our profession is still young - less than 80 years old!

For years, simulation in respiratory care education consisted of intubation heads, manikins for CPR and lung simulators for ventilator training. Respiratory care students learned clinical skills following the "see one, do one" method during hospital rotations.

As the profession has grown, so has the need for consistent training and education. New discoveries and treatment modalities continue to increase, with the skills necessary to care for patients constantly changing. Patient safety concerns and the inconsistency of clinical learning opportunities has driven the call for simulation-based education.

The Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH) is a go-to resource for simulation educators. The credentialing of individuals and accreditation of simulation labs through SSH provides evidence of quality simulation-based education. Unfortunately, not every simulation educator or simulation lab chooses to participate in this level of commitment to quality.

Reaching Forward

With simulation becoming more commonplace in health professions education, educators utilizing this instructional modality need high-quality professional development to promote adherence to evidence-based simulation practice. Professional development in simulation is a known opportunity for improvement in respiratory care. In addition to high-quality professional development in simulation, we encourage respiratory care educators to seek advanced credentialing, such as by earning the Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator or Certified Healthcare Simulation Operations Specialist credential.

The accrediting body for respiratory care programs, the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC), does not endorse use of simulation to replace clinical

hours. Despite this, more than 75 percent of entry-into-practice respiratory care programs utilize simulation-based education. With such widespread use, it is imperative that training in best practices is prioritized and adequately funded. *The Global Consensus Statement on Simulation-Based Practice in Healthcare* underscores the imperative, highlighting best practice approaches in faculty development, evaluation, accreditation, credentialing and certification.

The Journey Ahead

There exists a notable gap in specialized resources and support tailored specifically to RTs and mechanical ventilation simulation. Recognizing the gap between the RT's cardiopulmonary expertise and need for advanced training methods, particularly in entry-into-practice respiratory care programs and in the clinical environment, the Respiratory Care Affinity Group (RCAG) was created. The formation of the RCAG fills this gap by providing a dedicated space for respiratory therapists to exchange knowledge, collaborate on research and access targeted professional development opportunities within the context of healthcare simulation.

Led by the Inaugural Chair Samantha Davis and Vice Chair Matthew McMullen, and, the mission of the RCAG is to provide a collaborative space for respiratory therapists and healthcare professionals interested in respiratory care and mechanical ventilation simulation. We aim to advance the practice of respiratory care within healthcare simulation by fostering education, sharing best practices, promoting research and advocating for the integration of simulation into respiratory care training and practice.

Health professions educators from all disciplines are welcome in the RCAG. Let's work together to advance respiratory care simulation. 🌍

By Debbie Wakeham, MSHS, M.Ed., RRT, CHSE and Samantha Davis, MS, RRT, RRT-NPS, CHSE-A, FAARC



Judy Larson

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

Even as the International Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare (IMSH) 2025 continues to gather momentum, some sights are already shifting toward IMSH 2026 in San Antonio, Texas.

"IMSH 2026 will be the second time we're back in San Antonio, explained Judy Larson, Director of Meetings and Exhibits at the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH). We met in San Antonio for the first time in 2019. We didn't know how the attendees would like the first time in that city, but they embraced it. They loved it. You saw them spill out and explore the River Center area, the River Walk area, and they loved it. We're coming back next year, January 10th through the 14th, and looking forward to another record-breaking attendance."

She continued, "There are three cities in the United States that are considered very unique in terms of experiences. One is San Francisco. Another one is New Orleans. And the third one is San Antonio. Those three cities have unique cultures, unique food scenes. In San Antonio they have a lot of the Mexican influence. Surprisingly, that area of Texas also has a lot of German influence. And there are some great German restaurants as well as obviously great Tex Mex restaurants. The Convention Center has been remodeled and it's state of the art. It's contiguous to the Grand Hyatt, which will be our headquarters hotel, although all the hotels are within an easy walking distance."

"Exhibitors are coming off of a great record-breaking attendance experience," she said. "Our big partners, our big sponsors, have already selected their space. I think we're going to have another fabulous record-setting year, with all of us together in San Antonio." 🌍



MILESTONES IN NURSING: A JOURNEY OF GROWTH AND INNOVATION

As we look forward to the future of nursing education, simulation will continue to play an essential role in developing the skills and competencies of future nurses. Ensuring faculty are well-prepared to utilize these teaching tools and technologies will require ongoing training, mentorship and institutional support.

As nursing education evolves, particularly with the rapid integration of virtual platforms and the increasing focus on patient safety, it's crucial for academic nurse educators to reflect on past achievements while also striving toward a more dynamic future in simulation. The overarching goal of nursing simulation is to provide students with safe, realistic environments to practice critical skills and clinical decision-making without putting patients at risk.

Looking Back

Historically, nursing simulation provided students with hands-on, real-time learning opportunities. These sessions offer an environment where students can practice patient care, technical skills and communication in a controlled setting. They allow for immediate feedback and reflective learning,

which is crucial for improving both knowledge retention and clinical judgment.

Reaching Forward

Today, we are seeing an increasing need to expand simulation practices by incorporating virtual simulations and advanced technology, creating opportunities for remote learners and integrating scenarios that reflect complex healthcare challenges. As the landscape of nursing education shifts, it is vital to align simulation practices with safety standards and interprofessional partnerships:

Over the past five years, the Society for Simulation in Healthcare Nursing Section focused on key areas using simulation:

Patient Safety: The white paper trilogy developed by the Nursing Section Patient Safety Collaborative Work Group has been posted in the Nursing Section SimConnect library. Each paper discusses different approaches to the use of simulation to enhance patient safety:

- Strategic Approach – Integration of simulation with patient safety and quality in hospital and academic settings
- Structural Approach – Systems integration of simulation and human factors

- Clinical Approach – Clinical event debriefing

Interdisciplinary Partnerships: To foster inter-professional collaboration, the Nursing Section had presentations by renown speakers. These included:

- “Engaging Learners in Observer Roles” by Dr. Kyle Johnson, Executive Director of the Simulation Program at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
- “Practicality of Competency-Based Education in Nursing” by Dr. Brian Mann, Chief of Simulation Operations at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

The COVID-19 pandemic forced a rapid shift toward virtual clinical experiences, and while some traditional clinicals have resumed, virtual experiences remain a crucial component of nursing education. Virtual simulations can bridge gaps when clinical placements are limited or when students are geographically dispersed.

Mentorship for Faculty Development in Simulation

Effective mentorship is essential for faculty development, especially as simulation practices evolve. Experienced nurse educators can play a critical role in supporting less experienced colleagues as they navigate new technologies and instructional methods.

- Peer Mentoring: Pairing new faculty members with experienced simulation educators can help them build confidence and skills more quickly.
- Continuous Professional Development: Faculty development programs should focus on fostering skills in simulation-based education, including scenario development, feedback delivery and the integration of technology. Ongoing professional development will ensure faculty stays current with best practices and emerging trends.

While nursing simulation has already had a profound impact on education and patient safety, its role will only become more crucial as healthcare systems grow increasingly complex. By continuing to embrace and refine these technologies, nursing educators can ensure that the next generation of nurses is not only technically proficient, but also prepared to meet the diverse and dynamic challenges of tomorrow's healthcare landscape. 🌍

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