

# IMSH DAILY

DAY TWO | January 12, 2025



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-  #IMSH2025
-  See the [SSH Events App](#) for Schedule Updates

## PRESIDENT-ELECT SHARES PERSPECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

**S**ociety for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH) President-Elect Jared Kutzin, DNP, MS, MPH, RN, FSSH is poised to become the organization’s President at the close of IMSH 2025, the 25th anniversary of the event. He recently shared his perspectives about the current state of healthcare simulation, some of his priorities for the coming year and a few of the challenges he sees.

“I think the current state of healthcare simulation is really exciting,” he began. “It’s boundary-spanning. It’s becoming more integrated and vital throughout healthcare. I’m seeing more and more organizations, large organizations, stepping up to the plate and investing in the technology, in the people who use the technology, in the professional development to use it correctly, and pushing the boundaries of what we can do with it, whether it’s our vendor partners or the folks who are doing the actual education of the staff. I think it’s a really exciting time, and it’s a time when we see so many more people coming into the field. There’s a lot of growth happening.”



Jared Kutzin

Emphasizing the trend of “more and more partners globally coming on board,” Kutzin continued, “We see the World Health Organization opening a building focused on simulation-based education and the need for that type of training globally.”

Another trend he identified is that “extended reality, mixed reality, virtual reality and augmented reality are becoming more commonplace and of higher quality, and we see the use of machine learning, natural language processing and artificial intelligence. We see those things that >

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## OPENING PLENARY BRINGS EXCITEMENT, TEARS AND LAUGHTER

**A**ttendees at Saturday morning’s Opening Plenary Session of the International Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare (IMSH) enjoyed an emotional roller coaster that provided excitement, tears, laughter and both personal and professional motivation.

The welcoming video set the stage, telling the audience, “For a quarter century, we’ve been pioneers, trailblazers and visionaries in healthcare simulation. We’ve all taken on challenges. We’ve marveled at the early obstacles faced by our predecessors and we have been in awe at their courage to innovate and lay the foundation for the extraordinary advancements we celebrate today, >

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# TODAY AT IMSH

**Sunday, January 12**

**Plenary Session –**  
**The Lou Oberndorf Lecture on Innovation and**  
**Healthcare Simulation featuring Crystal Washington**  
 Room 415 – 8:15-9:30 am

**Exhibit Hall Open**  
 Exhibit Hall – 9:30 am-4:30 pm

**Research Posters Displayed**  
 Exhibit Hall – 9:30 am-4:30 pm

**Technology Experiential Area**  
 Exhibit Hall – 9:30 am-4:30 pm

**SSH Corporate Roundtable Learning Labs**  
 Rooms 221C, 221D, 221E – 9:45-10:45 am; 11:00 am-  
 12:00 pm; 2:00-3:30 pm; 3:45-5:15 pm

**Lunch**  
 Exhibit Hall – 11:30 am-2:00 pm

**SimVentors Showcase**  
 Exhibit Hall – 11:45 am-2:00 pm

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

**SSH Fellows Main Stage Presentation:**  
***The Pitch: Patient Safety's Next Generation* Film**  
**screening followed by Q & A with film director**  
 Room 415 – 2:00-3:30 pm



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



SSH President's Diamond Ball on Friday night.



IMSH 2025 SimFit 5K Run / Walk / Roll on Saturday morning.







Jared Kutzin and Barry Issenberg open the IMSH Exhibit Hall on Saturday afternoon.

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# CONSENSUS STATEMENT REFLECTS GLOBAL CHALLENGES

In May of last year, the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH), in collaboration with the Society for Simulation in Europe (SESAM), proudly announced the release of the *Global Consensus Statement on Simulation-Based Practice in Healthcare*.

This groundbreaking statement underscores the transformative power of simulation in healthcare education, training and practice.

The *Global Consensus Statement* highlights simulation's impact on addressing global healthcare challenges, including education inequities, safety culture and workforce resilience. It outlines how simulation is used across diverse healthcare domains, from clinical disciplines to quality improvement initiatives. The statement also emphasizes ethical considerations, such as equitable access, safety and sustainability in simulation practice.

"The *Global Consensus Statement* is a document that brought together SSH and SESAM," explained Bob Armstrong, former SSH President and Society lead on the statement. "But it was really [former SSH President] Jayne Smitten who started it all. She had an idea of collaborating to understand the needs of healthcare simulation across the world, to identify opinions and insights from a number of different networks and societies. So that effort started two springs ago, and I was asked to lead the SSH portion with a team that included Matt Charnetski, Sabrina Koh and Kirsty Freeman, along with Cristina Diaz-Navarro as lead for the SESAM group, and Gabe Reedy, editor for the SESAM journal, *Advances in Simulation*. That team and others put a heck of a lot of time into figuring out precisely what it was we wanted to do, and that we thought we could do. And we settled on outreach to 50 different networks and societies with membership coming from 67 different countries around the world."

He added, "This outreach was not just putting out a questionnaire. We actually had conversations with people, based on questions that we formulated to reflect the need for consistency. And then we set up multiple calls around the world to have conversations that would last roughly 60 minutes. First, we needed to know who

was there, because we were giving credit for the organizational contributions and the people representing those organizations. Then we asked a bunch of questions around what their issues were, like what problems were people having with healthcare simulation now? What things did they wish they could do but haven't been able to? What were some of their concerns? And what would they like to be able to do down the road?"

After that information was captured, organized and partially categorized, Armstrong said, "It resulted in a perspective that we provided regarding the current state and needs around the world. And what we are able to do with that is provide some kind of call for action on things like: What should system providers and educational systems do? What should simulation people do? And what should policy-makers do? And it started a really, really good conversation around this. Quite frankly, we have been incredibly surprised at the level of energy that has found its way behind this effort. It's really something else."

He said that the current status of the *Global Consensus Statement* is that it was simultaneously published in three journals and subsequently found its way into a fourth.

"Simultaneous publishing was really interesting," he said. "We made it open source, so the paper is continuing to be referenced across the world by these different networks and societies as they are talking about the strategic direction that the industry and the communities want and need to take going forward. And that's a really good thing."

Asked about next steps for the *Global Consensus Statement*, he offered, "While Cristina and I had an intent to take these first steps with things like the journals, we wanted to see how it went before we started talking about next steps. So our next

steps are really that the global consensus paper was the first step towards creating a globally collaborative statement of requirement that will allow us to get ourselves organized around what the needs are."

He continued, "One thing that's really interesting to me is that any one of us are smart enough to come up with some kind of statement like this. But just because one person says something, it doesn't mean everybody else is going to agree to it. However, when it's collaborative like this, and reflects a truly consensus approach, it's kind of hard to claim that this is just Bob Armstrong's opinion. It's not. This is our opinion. It's a collective opinion."

"The next steps, quite frankly, led to the Forum that we did at the beginning of IMSH. That was the next step. And then what we envision is that we will create a routine where we are touching on some aspect at every IMSH and every SESAM to advance this activity forward. That way, if we were to lose an event, we don't lose a whole year, we only lose six months. So we're trying to create this routine here. And I'd love to see other organizations take on the mantle of building towards this. For example, I'd love to see related activities in organizations like INACSL [International Nursing Association of Clinical Simulation and Learning], ASPIH [Association for Simulated Practice in Healthcare] and others, and then regionally in other countries. Our goal would include providing input and insight to support them moving the effort forward."

He concluded, "For IMSH attendees, there are both active ways and passive ways to support the effort. The active way is to provide your voice and get involved in helping to think about what the future of healthcare simulation needs to be, and how it needs to get more firmly entrenched in places like the practitioner space and clinical space, not just the educational space. It's about having a growth mindset and an innovative mindset to grow the future of healthcare simulation. Another active way is, when we have activities like the Forum at the beginning of IMSH, to come and represent your perspective. We want people to come and participate, not be passive attendees." 🌍

**“ This outreach was not just putting out a questionnaire. We actually had conversations with people, based on questions that we formulated to reflect the need for consistency. ”**



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<> have been talked about in healthcare also impacting our world.”

In considering the theme of this year’s meeting, *Looking Back, Reaching Forward*, and the significance of 25 years of IMSH, Kutzin said, “I wasn’t involved in the Society for Simulation in Healthcare 25 years ago. I was involved with simulation, but we didn’t really know that’s what it was. We didn’t call it that in the industry that I was in. So, looking back at 25 years and where this industry, where this specialty, where this field has come is astonishing. And looking forward to the next 25 years, I think we are in a really wonderful position to continue to build and collaborate and innovate.”

“Looking back,” he continued, “there are certain key individuals, giants in the field of simulation-based education, who have laid the foundation for all the work that we’re doing today. And I don’t think that they would have thought 25 years ago, when they were having a small gathering of medical professionals, that there would be 5,000 individuals sitting in a room [at IMSH], an interdisciplinary audience, and to have created a community of practice that is second to none. So I am excited for the next decade of continuing to welcome new people into our community, expanding our community, and engaging with partners who are where I was 20 years ago, using this technique and technology, but not really knowing it as intricately as I do now.”

Kutzin reflected on his background in EMS, and 20 years ago, teaching lifeguarding, where, he said, they practiced saving a “drowning victim” as part of their drills, without actually calling it simulation. “Our colleagues in EMS and the fire service and the lifeguarding service are among so many individuals who do simulations, but we haven’t necessarily engaged with them as much as we could have, and so we’re looking forward to continuing to build those collaborations and invite them into our community of practice.”

Looking to the future, Kutzin identified some of his priorities as SSH President for the coming year. To ensure they can meet the organization’s strategic plan, he explained, “We have undertaken a comprehensive review of the Society over the past six months, where we have looked at how we operate – basically what we do, how we do it and who does it. And we are really excited at working on implementing the output from that strategic process that

we undertook. We already know about and have put in motion a new website, a new learning management system and a new association management system. Those will be implemented in the first half of 2025.”

Regarding the “new look” for the website, he added, “As a virtual organization, we don’t have a building. So when you come to our website, that’s our front door, and we will have a new front door and entryway in 2025.”

Another priority, he said, is to continue to grow the credentialing programs – the certification and accreditation programs. “And, he added, “there may be initiatives or programs within the Society that we are no longer going to move forward with, so we can free up capacity to focus on those areas our members are most interested in. There is an opportunity for us to streamline our programs and our organization, become more efficient and provide even better opportunities and service to our membership.”

Advocating for simulation’s use globally with partner organizations “is a really important component of the next year,” Kutzin said. “We have already started on that, and we’re going to continue to move that forward.”

He added that another focus will involve “ensuring that the membership sees value in SSH and that we are providing our membership with everything that they need to be successful in their careers and to implement simulation at their own organizations.”

“And, of course, we will continue conveying our message about the importance of the SSH Fund,” Kutzin said. “This fund provides opportunities for individuals who haven’t attended IMSH before to come join our community of practice. It provides grant funding to further our use and innovations within simulation. So, continuing to build the fund so we can ensure that we have the same opportunities, and even more opportunities over the next 25 years is the goal – funding innovative ideas from our researchers and attendees at conferences.”

Along with the prospects of the coming year, Kutzin sees some challenges, one of which is the financial climate within the U.S.-based healthcare industry. “Many healthcare institutions are financially struggling,” he said. “SSH is not; we are in a really good position. But we know that simulation is sometimes thought of as a luxury, not a necessity. I think that is a real challenge, and so I think we have to continue to advocate and demonstrate that simulation is a vital tool to improving healthcare, the preparation of the next generation of healthcare providers and the safety of care that’s being provided in our institutions. That’s where our advocacy efforts are going to be tremendously important.”

“Another challenge, I think, is continuing to get the message out that simulation doesn’t have to be done in a multi-million dollar simulation facility, and that simulation in the developing world globally also needs to continue to grow and improve,” Kutzin continued. “That’s another thing that SSH continues to work on; engaging with our local and regional partners throughout the world to ensure that high quality simulation is being provided and offered. We have opportunities for regional affiliates to help with certification and accreditation, and we are excited about those opportunities. So, while it’s a challenge for us to meet the needs globally, we are finding innovative ways to do that through our partnerships with other simulation societies.”

Kutzin summarized his message to IMSH 2025 attendees. “This is a special IMSH,” he said, adding that almost every past SSH President is attending the conference this year. “I encourage everybody to take the time to get to know them, to get to know the current board and to make connections at IMSH, because when we look at where we’re going, it has to be grounded in where we’ve come from. And so my message is to have fun, to learn, to make connections, meet people and learn about the past so that we can make strides for the future.” 🌍

**“ We have to continue to advocate and demonstrate that simulation is a vital tool to improving healthcare, the preparation of the next generation of healthcare providers and the safety of care that’s being provided. ”**

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< > from the first rudimentary simulators to the hyper-realistic environments of modern simulation centers.

“We’ve come a long way, but our journey is far from over. The future of healthcare includes our continued ability to push boundaries, to think critically, to collaborate and to keep reaching forward toward a world where simulation in healthcare is the rule rather than the exception, a world where every healthcare professional is equipped with the confidence and skills to deliver exceptional patient care with creative solutions. That world is taking shape right here at IMSH 2025. That’s why we’re here. That’s why you are here.

“Over the coming days, we’ll explore the latest research. We’ll witness groundbreaking demonstrations. We’ll engage in thought provoking discussions and connect with colleagues from around the world. But most importantly, we’ll leave this conference inspired, empowered and ready to make a difference. Let’s make IMSH 2025 the catalyst for transformative change in healthcare. Our patients are counting on us. Let’s do this. Welcome to 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 then took the stage to officially welcome the audience and outline what they should expect over the next 90 minutes, with Johnson offering, “When we looked at creating our vision for IMSH 2025, we knew we wanted to make this special, knowing that it’s the 25th anniversary of this incredible conference. The idea of the conference theme, *Looking Back, Reaching Forward*, gives you the opportunity to accomplish that vision. While we want to be sure to acknowledge all of the amazing accomplishments of our past and celebrate how they helped us face today, we also really want to emphasize how we are expanding the science of simulation into the next 25 years.”

DiMarco introduced Matt Merino, Chief Executive Officer of Education Management Solutions, the exclusive presidential sponsor of IMSH 2025, who said, “It’s truly remarkable in 25 years how much the world of simulation has grown, and more importantly, how much further we still must go to continue improving all aspects of education and care in the rapidly changing healthcare ecosystem.”

Merino introduced Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH) President Barry Issenberg, MD, FSSH who prefaced his address by

SSH President Barry Issenberg at the IMSH Opening Plenary.



recognizing the exceptional work performed by the SSH staff, as well as volunteers and others across industry, academia and the healthcare simulation landscape.

“The secret is that the role of the SSH President is pretty easy,” he joked. “And the reason is because we’re surrounded by a strong team of individuals who are committed every day. We basically just have to show up and follow directions.”

After extending his own thanks to Merino, he continued, “The reason why the President’s role is so easy is because we have a wonderful staff who are committed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, behind the scenes, doing the hard work to make all of the opportunities, the programs and services available for us. And I would just like to extend my deep appreciation to them for this past year.”

He continued, “I’ve also been so fortunate to have worked with this year’s Board of Directors. You know, they say leadership is a team sport, and this Board has been no exception. The work we’ve been able to do, what we’ve been able to accomplish is because of their leadership and their commitment to the Society. So I’d just like to extend my thanks to the Board of Directors.

“Additionally, the work behind the scenes is really the work of almost 200 of our members who are volunteering their time, their services, their hours away from family, away from their full time jobs, in serving our Councils, our Commissions, Committees, Sections, Special Interest Groups and regional groups, all throughout the year who are working on numerous programs that we’ll be talking about.”

He added, “One of the things we’re most proud about at SSH is our affiliations with other organizations throughout the world who share our mission and vision of using simulation and simulation methodologies

for education and training to foster research and innovation, all for the betterment of patient care. What we’re able to do collectively makes a much greater impact on what we’re trying to accomplish. And I want to thank all of these groups on behalf of SSH. Also, a special thank you and shout out to our industry partners and for the amazing industry showcase they have put together this year. In many ways, I feel the industry showcase is the heart of IMSH. It’s the place, in addition to the plenary, where we can all come together, experience hands-on activities to be able to work together, to network, to communicate, to have food and drink. On behalf of SSH, thank you for your support.”

Issenberg then highlighted early accomplishments under the 2024 SSH Strategic Plan, before introducing a video presentation that brought moments of silence to many audience members as they witnessed a brief retrospective on the life of Former SSH President Chad Epps, MD, FSSH. The tears of some reflected the amazing impact that Epps had on so many lives across SSH and the field of healthcare simulation.

One small part of that legacy is the Chad Epps Lecture, which was delivered this year by Kyle Scheele, who turned the audience to laughter with a collection of personal experiences that he used to punctuate a theme of “ideas” and the five things every idea needs.

He summarized, “An idea is a rock that is thrown into a pond and it sends these ripples out that impact people. Oftentimes you never even experience the results of the work that you do. It’s so easy in any job after a while to say, ‘I’ve got to do this today. I’ve got to set this thing up. I’ve got to train this person.’ And you forget that actually you’re setting up these simulations that are teaching people how to do stuff that can save people’s lives, that can make people’s quality of life better.” 🌍

# SIMOPS 2025: “ACCESS GRANTED”—LEVERAGING EXPERTISE FOR HEALTHCARE EQUITY

July 16-18, 2025, Peoria, Illinois, will be home to the simulation-based healthcare conference SimOps 2025. This year's theme, Access Granted, carries a powerful message. The focus is on how simulation operations specialists can harness their skills and technology to drive healthcare innovation and improve healthcare equity. By ensuring that simulation-based education and training are accessible to all, particularly in underserved and rural areas, SimOps 2025 is not just a conference—it's a call to action for transformative change in healthcare delivery.

The Access Granted theme recognizes the integral role of simulation operations specialists in the healthcare system. These professionals are often behind the scenes, facilitating the technical aspects of simulation-based training for healthcare professionals. Yet, their expertise is indispensable when it comes to creating immersive, realistic training environments that prepare healthcare workers for real-world scenarios. At SimOps 2025, the spotlight will be on how these specialists can lead the charge in making healthcare simulation technology more inclusive and accessible to diverse populations.

In recent years, the simulation community has gained recognition for its impact on improving clinical outcomes through innovative education. However, there is an increasing understanding that these advancements must reach beyond major urban centers and affluent regions. Rural areas and underserved communities face significant disparities in healthcare access and quality, which are further exacerbated by a lack of training opportunities for local providers.

SimOps 2025 aims to address these challenges by bringing together simulation experts, educators and healthcare leaders to explore strategies for expanding the reach of simulation-based education. From discussions on mobile simulation labs that bring training to remote communities, to affordable and scalable simulation technologies that can be adapted for resource-limited settings, the conference will offer a wealth of knowledge and practical tools for creating equitable healthcare education.

SimOps 2025 centers on equitable access to simulation-based healthcare education,

complementing IMSH 2025's broadening of dialogue through exploration of how simulation innovations can be integrated into daily healthcare practices.

Both IMSH and SimOps underscore the critical role of education—not only for those within academic and clinical healthcare settings but also for communities traditionally excluded from such advancements. Through a commitment to inclusivity, both events aim to build a healthcare workforce prepared to serve diverse populations effectively, advocating for a more equitable dissemination of knowledge.

As the simulation community gathers in Peoria for this event, one thing is clear: the future of healthcare lies in the ability to make cutting-edge training accessible to all. SimOps 2025: Access Granted is a bold step toward realizing that future—one where simulation is not a luxury for the few but a right for everyone. By embracing innovation and advocating for widespread dissemination of educational resources, the simulation community can play a pivotal role in reducing healthcare disparities and ensuring better outcomes for all. 🌍

## A YEAR OF GROWTH AND IMPACT: THE NEW TO SIMULATION AFFINITY GROUP

As the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH) celebrates its 25th anniversary, we reflect on the remarkable progress made within the simulation community. The New to Simulation Affinity Group is proud to have contributed to this journey by fostering a supportive environment for emerging simulation educators.

Over the past year, the New to Simulation Affinity Group has remained steadfast in its mission to integrate evidence-based simulation andragogy across healthcare settings. We've made significant strides in achieving our goals:

### Integrating Evidence-Based Simulation

- Leveraging SSH Frameworks: We've relied on comprehensive frameworks provided by SSH to guide our work. These frameworks have helped us to

align our efforts with best practices in the field.

- Fostering Collaborations: We've actively sought collaborations with experienced simulation educators and researchers to share knowledge and expertise. These collaborations have enriched our understanding of evidence-based simulation and its application in various healthcare settings.
- Developing Educational Programs: We've developed and delivered educational programs, such as workshops and webinars, to equip emerging simulation educators with the necessary skills and knowledge. These programs have covered a wide range of topics, including curriculum design, scenario development and evaluation strategies.

### Fostering Interprofessional Collaboration

- Organizing Regular Forums: We've or-

ganized regular virtual and in-person forums to facilitate interprofessional collaboration and discussion. These forums have provided a platform for simulation educators from diverse backgrounds to share experiences, challenges and innovative solutions.

- Meeting Regularly: We've met virtually twice to discuss relevant simulation topics. These virtual meetings have allowed us to maintain momentum and build strong relationships among members.
- In-Person Meetings at IMSH: We've convened in person at the International Meeting for Simulation in Healthcare (IMSH) to network, share best practices and strengthen our community. These in-person meetings have been invaluable for fostering deeper connections and building lasting relationships. ➤

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# LEVERAGING THE IRC FOR PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

**T**he Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH) Internal Relations Committee (IRC) plays a pivotal role in connecting members with Sections, Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and Affinity Groups (AGs), offering pathways for meaningful involvement and professional growth.

The IRC mission is to support SSH's general membership growth, development and advancement, particularly through Sections, SIGs, and AGs. This committee facilitates collaboration between various interest groups, SSH administration, the Board of Directors and other Committees. One of its core goals is to foster engagement and retention by developing tools and processes that support member involvement.

IMSH 2025 presents many opportunities for SSH members to connect with the IRC and make the most of their membership.

Member onboarding initiatives are some of the key areas to explore. If you are new to SSH or looking to become more involved, the IRC has developed a comprehensive onboarding process. For instance, the IRC aims to establish a welcome packet and create an onboarding track at IMSH specifically designed for new members.

A survey is being developed to assess needs of members with less than three years

of involvement. This will help the IRC tailor resources to address the specific challenges of early-career professionals. You can contribute to shaping these efforts by participating in this survey and engaging with IRC representatives during IMSH.


One of the IRC's primary aims is to foster leadership within Sections, SIGs, and AGs. Whether you have been a long-standing member or are just starting out, involvement in these groups can provide a platform for leadership development, networking and gaining specialized knowledge. Participating in these groups allows members to take advantage of mentorship opportunities, collaborate on projects and contribute to the broader simulation community.

The IRC is also focused on creating value pathways to ensure sustainable member involvement. At IMSH, discussions around these pathways will explore ways volunteer involvement can support professional certifications, such as CHSE recertification.

Additionally, the IRC is working on integrating more features into SimConnect, the online hub for SSH members.

Getting involved with the IRC and other SSH initiatives during and after IMSH 2025 is easy. One way is to join Sections, SIGs

and AGs. You'll have the chance to meet like-minded professionals and discuss potential collaborations.

Volunteering is another pathway to involvement. Throughout the year, the IRC always seeks members through a "call for service" to contribute to various projects, from onboarding new members to leading SIGs or AGs. Volunteering is a fantastic way to build your professional network and enhance your leadership skills.  - By Pooja Noowathe

**Attending IRC sessions led by IRC members at IMSH is a great way to learn more about ongoing projects, initiatives and ways to get involved. These two sessions are offered at IMSH 2025:**

**SSH IRC Presents: Leveraging the SSH Member Roadmap Part 1: Professional Development, Sunday, January 12, 11 am - 12 pm, Room 107**

**SSH IRC Presents: Leveraging the SSH Member Roadmap Part 2: Scholarship and Leadership Opportunities for the Experienced Simulationist, Tuesday, January 14, 11 am - 12 pm, Room 221D**

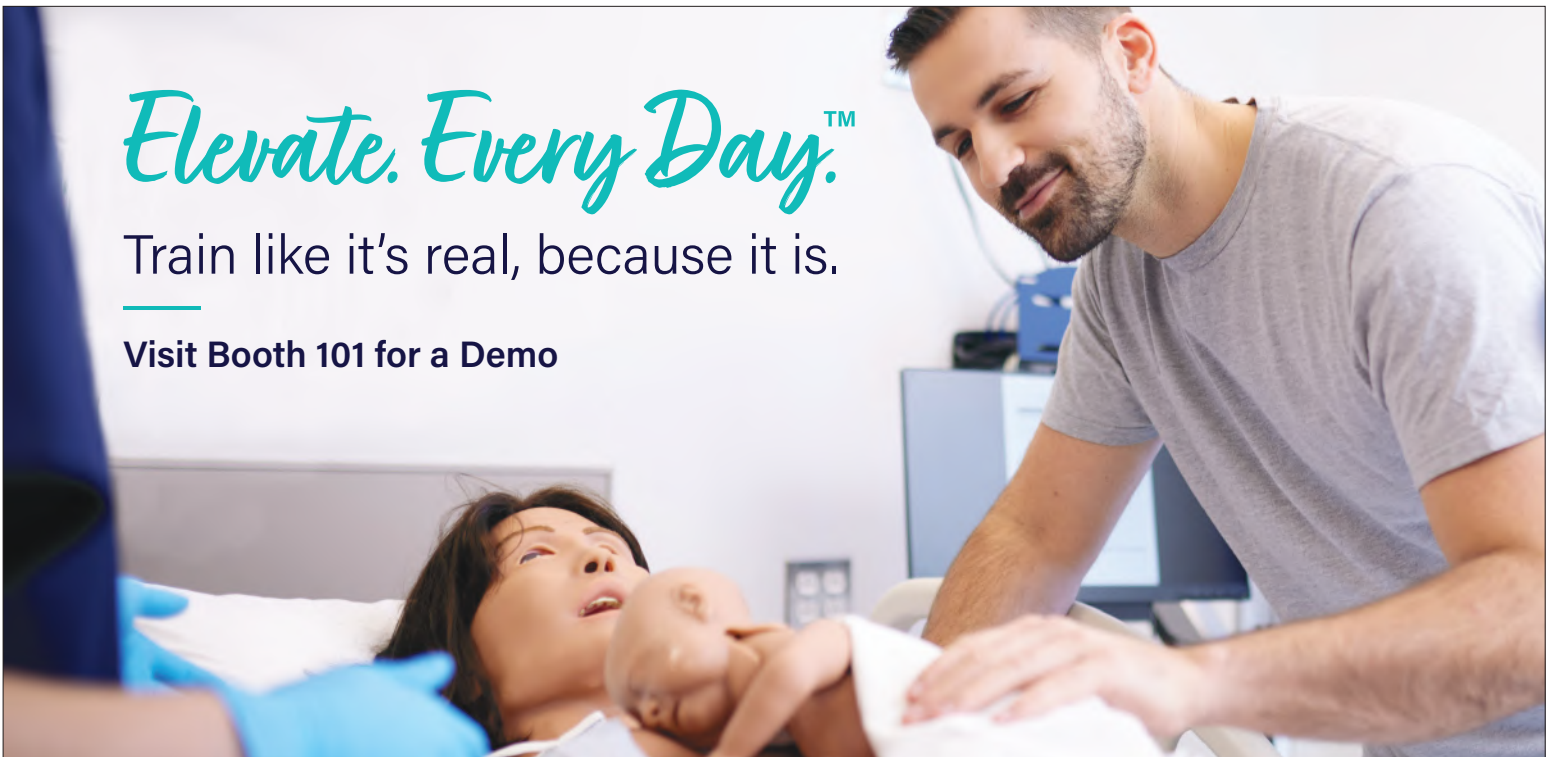
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# SSH ACCREDITATION COUNCIL: A BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD

Accreditation has been a pivotal institution that has propelled the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH) and simulation-based education in general to the forefront. It's crucial to recognize the historical role of SSH Accreditation in our growth over the past fifteen years.

The act of *Looking Back* is a tribute to the collective knowledge, wisdom and foresight of the original Accreditation Council members. The first programs were accredited under the initial standards developed by these leaders of accreditation in 2009. As we honor our past, we also celebrate the present, with more than 295 programs across six continents currently accredited. As current leaders of the Accreditation Council, we marvel at the level of success and the trajectory of growth that we find ourselves on—a testament to the vision of our initial pioneers.

Like all Committees, Councils or Sections through SSH, the COVID-19 pandemic presented a significant obstacle to our future success. It disrupted many aspects of our work, but it also showcased our ability as simulationists to adapt and overcome. Despite the physical distance mandated by healthcare protocols,

the Accreditation Council transitioned to virtual reviews and successfully completed the most recent standards rewrite. This forced adaptation to virtual reviews not only overcame the immediate challenge but also paved the way for a more financially sustainable model for programs, ensuring they can maintain the gold standard in healthcare accreditation across their reaccreditation window.

In 2023, our Council took on the daunting challenge of expanding the footprint of SSH Accreditation. As we reviewed data and metrics to support the article *Perceived Return on Investment of SSH Accreditation*, we recognized a troubling pattern emerging. There was an overwhelming lack of international programs among our accredited ranks. As we dove deeper into the barriers at play, our Council took the ultimate step forward to develop The Commission for International Simulation Accreditation (CISA). CISA represents a partnership agreement between SSH Accreditation and an SSH Affiliate organization with the aim of developing an International Accrediting Organization (IAO). This global expansion of SSH Accreditation is an exciting step forward,

and we invite you to be part of our growing international community.

In roughly 14 months of planning and development, the SSH Accreditation Council has a working model for CISA and a current pilot with the Sociedad Mexicana de Simulación en Ciencias de la Salud (SOMESICS). This historical partnership launch will lessen the barriers to program accreditation across Mexico and Latin America and provide these programs with dual accreditation from SOMESICS and SSH. This landmark agreement is the first in what we envision will be a successful global initiative to recognize exemplary programs across the world.

As we prepare to *Reach Forward*, we would be remiss if we did not recognize our incredible volunteers and Council members. They are the experts that make these monumental moments possible. Because of the collective knowledge and experience of these members, the future of SSH Accreditation looks brighter than ever.

Fresh off the adrenaline rush from developing CISA, we continue to push forward and provide quality improvement of our current offerings, all while recognizing areas where we can continue to support the growing field of healthcare simulation. As a Council, we remain nimble and prepared to address the developing trends in healthcare simulation because those trends can quickly become cemented as the next best practice of simulation education. 🌟

# SOTS WELCOMES NEW LEADERSHIP, LOOKS TO THE FUTURE OF SIMULATION OPERATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

The Simulation Operations and Technology Section (SOTS) represents one of the largest Sections within the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH). Over one thousand simulation professionals gather to share their knowledge of manikin programming, moulage and more in a network that spans the globe.

Beginning in January 2025, SOTS welcomes new leadership: Ralph Herrera will be stepping into the role of Chair, and Athena Ryals will be taking over as Vice Chair. Ralph and Athena thank past chair Amy Follmer and past Vice Chair Shandra Jamison for seeing the Section through considerable growth in the last two years.

As SOTS looks to the future, interconnectedness and community will be more important than ever. Our willingness to share knowledge with anyone who asks makes this community so special, and our culture of mentorship is strong. Whether on SimConnect, in our bi-monthly "I

Have a Problem!" brainstorming sessions or at in-person gatherings like IMSH, we forge deep connections that often last a lifetime. In SOTS, we are tight-knit, proud and welcoming.

We are also passionate and overflowing with a drive to accomplish great things. We have multiple workgroups within SOTS for those looking to get more involved. For those passionate about education, we have the Education Workgroup, which hosts monthly webinars on simulation operations, certification, safety and more. If you enjoy advertising, writing or getting the word out about how great SOTS is, the Promotion and Engagement Workgroup releases a quarterly newsletter and collaborates with the #SimProfessional Workgroup to elevate our members. The #SimProfessional Workgroup advocates for simulation operations specialists and technicians as professionals by writing profiles on notable professionals in our Section, creating resources for new sim professionals and

hosting networking events. The Nominations Workgroup ensures that exceptional sim professionals are recognized at IMSH every year!

Just as the IMSH theme suggests, in 2025, SOTS will continue to reach forward in these ways:

- Continuing to advocate for the professionalization of simulation operations specialists, supporting work that would create a standardized job description (and pay structure).
- Working to foster more social connections throughout SOTS through new, free networking events, reducing the risk of burnout and increasing engagement worldwide.
- Creating resources for new or under-resourced simulation operations specialists so that they can succeed.

If you want to get involved in SOTS, please get in touch with Ralph Herrera at [ralph.herrera@me.com](mailto:ralph.herrera@me.com) or Athena Ryals, at [aryals@illinois.edu](mailto:aryals@illinois.edu). 🌟

# GAUMARD SCIENTIFIC ANNOUNCES LATEST INNOVATIONS AT IMSH 2025

**G**aumard Scientific [Booth 801], a global leader in healthcare simulation technology, is highlighting its most advanced emergency and trauma patient simulator to date, PHOEBE, in addition to an innovative lineup of new skill trainers designed to elevate clinical education.

At IMSH 2025, Gaumard Scientific will preview PHOEBE, an advanced female polytrauma simulator designed to deliver ultra-high-fidelity trauma and emergency medical care training. PHOEBE features realistic trauma injuries, lifelike physiology, motor movement and powerful control software, empowering trainees to develop essential clinical skills, teamwork and confidence for improved patient outcomes in real-world scenarios.

"PHOEBE will enable emergency care training programs across the military, EMS and civilian hospitals to set a new standard by making simulation feel like the real thing," said Peter Eggert, Executive Vice President of Gaumard Scientific. "Through immersive, hands-on training with PHOEBE, trainees will learn to think on their feet, master procedural skills through repeated practice and effectively manage the stress and pressure of trauma situations."

Gaumard will also provide IMSH 2025 attendees an exclusive, hands-on experience with three new clinical procedural trainers. These innovative solutions are designed to advance skills development in ultrasound-guided procedures and core clinical assessment skills. "To perform clinical procedures well in real-life situations, one needs to train on those procedures enough times to commit them to muscle memory," Eggert said. "That's why we invest heavily in building better skills trainers—to ensure trainees gain competence safely."

In addition to product launch events, Gaumard invites IMSH attendees to experience the world's most advanced patient simulators, including HAL S5301, VICTORIA S2200, Pediatric HAL S2225, Super TORY S2220, and PHOEBE.

"IMSH 2025 is very special for us—it's our biggest show ever," said Eggert. "Attendees will have the unique opportunity to experience the most advanced simulators in the industry, all in one place. The level of technology, innovation and selection is unmatched and available only from Gaumard."


## ABOUT GAUMARD SCIENTIFIC

Healthcare educators and students worldwide recognize Gaumard Scientific's commitment to innovation and developing the most advanced patient simulation technology. Gaumard designs and manufactures simulators at its global headquarters in Miami and markets them directly in the U.S. and through distributors in 70 countries. Gaumard's customer base includes military, emergency medical services, major teaching hospitals and nursing schools.

Gaumard's product launch timeline reflects the company's unwavering commitment to innovation. In 2000, Gaumard launched the family of NOELLE maternal and neonatal care simulators, and in 2004, Gaumard pioneered the use of fully tetherless technology by introducing the family of HAL simulators. The company, in 2014, introduced VICTORIA, its most advanced maternal and neonatal care simulator, as part of the NOELLE family. In 2017, Gaumard introduced Super TORY, the first newborn simulator developed to meet the challenges of neonatal care specialists training in real environments.

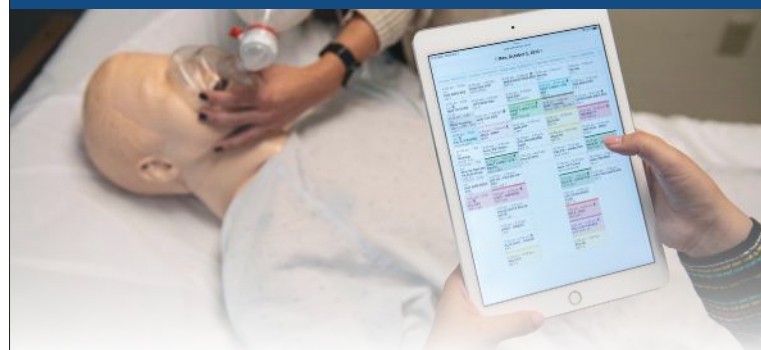


Gaumard Scientific's polytrauma simulator, PHOEBE.

Pediatric HAL, the world's most advanced pediatric patient simulator and the first capable of simulating life-like emotions through dynamic facial expressions, movement and speech, was launched in 2018. In 2022, HAL S5301 introduced groundbreaking advancements in robotics and AI-enhanced speech, simulating realistic clinical scenarios and fostering team-based training. Its ability to automatically answer medical history questions, follow voice commands, and adapt through learning represents a monumental leap in simulation technology. 

For company and product information, visit [www.gaumard.com](http://www.gaumard.com).

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SCAN ME  

Elevate Healthcare's LearningSpace.



## ELEVATE HEALTHCARE UNVEILS MODULAR ECOSYSTEM

**E**levate Healthcare [Booth 101] is utilizing the IMSH 2025 Exhibit Hall to unveil Evo, a new cutting-edge modular ecosystem that marks a new chapter in simulation training. Showcased for the first time at IMSH, Evo is designed to provide realistic, intelligent and predictive learning experiences, and can be adapted to a wide variety of simulation needs. Whether it's routine care or high-pressure scenarios, Evo allows learners to move seamlessly between situations, offering them a dynamic and immersive training experience. With Evo, every simulation becomes an opportunity to challenge learners and build their confidence, all within a single, unified platform.

In addition to Evo, company representatives highlighted a number of supporting products and capabilities on display in their booth, including LearningSpace, Lucina, Luna and Vimedix.

At the heart of the learning ecosystem is LearningSpace, the command center of simulation that serves as the nucleus that inte-

grates every piece of the company's solution, streamlining workflows so educators can focus on what matters most—effective learning. From AI-powered assessments and live streaming to comprehensive reporting and performance tracking, LearningSpace brings together all elements of simulation training in a unified, scalable platform.

Elevate representatives emphasized that time is a critical factor in education, adding that LearningSpace helps educators manage it more effectively. Whether it's scheduling, inventory management or debriefing, LearningSpace ensures that every moment is optimized for the greatest impact. It offers a complete solution that supports the entire training process—from organizing simulations to analyzing learner progress. LearningSpace empowers educators to deliver efficient, engaging training that accelerates competency and ensures learners leave with the skills they need to succeed.

For obstetrics and neonatal care, the company presents Lucina, a comprehensive ob-

stetric patient simulator, asserting that Lucina's versatility shines through in her ability to switch between gravid and non-gravid states, making her adaptable to a wide range of scenarios in simulation centers. From labor and delivery to pre- and postpartum care, Lucina helps learners build critical skills in managing obstetric emergencies. Luna, Elevate Healthcare's neonatal simulator, further supports this by providing learners with realistic training for newborn care, ensuring preparedness for high-stakes neonatal situations.

Finally, the company is featuring Vimedix, an ultrasound simulation portfolio offering critical tools for healthcare professionals. Catherine, a women's health ultrasound simulator, supports learners in mastering obstetrics and gynecology techniques, and Bob, specializing in cardiac and abdominal ultrasound, offers diagnostics training for high-stakes clinical scenarios. Both simulators complement their broader simulation ecosystem, providing targeted ultrasound training to enhance the overall educational experience.

Representatives summarized that all of these tools—Evo, LearningSpace, Lucina, Luna and Vimedix—work together to create an ecosystem designed to elevate healthcare education. LearningSpace serves as the backbone, integrating these solutions and enabling educators to track learner progress, manage schedules and analyze performance, all while fostering an efficient, engaging environment.

They continued, "We believe that every learner deserves the best possible training, and every educator deserves the best tools to help them succeed. Our solutions are designed to elevate the learning experience, providing flexibility, realism and most importantly, time-saving innovations that ensure educators can focus on what truly matters: preparing healthcare professionals to excel in the moments that matter most."

They said that Elevate Healthcare is driven by one clear goal: to elevate every moment, every learner and every outcome in healthcare simulation. As leaders in innovative simulation solutions, the company provides virtual and physical tools that adapt to every educational experience, empowering educators to shape the next generation of healthcare professionals.

They concluded that the company's mission is simple yet profound: making the world safer, healthier and more productive by empowering healthcare professionals to deliver confidently in the moments that matter. 🌍



# SSH, SOMESICS LAUNCH INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION PARTNERSHIP

**T**he Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH) and the Sociedad Mexicana de Simulación en Ciencias de la Salud (SOMESICS), which promotes excellence in medical simulation and clinical skills training in Mexico and beyond, announced in 2024 the launch of a new accreditation agreement. The partnership is made possible through the Commission for International Simulation Accreditation (CISA), a new initiative that allows SSH to partner with International Affiliate Organizations to provide dual accreditation.

Jack Jaeger, MSN Ed, RN, CCRN, CHSE, SSH Accreditation Council Chair, explained the background and purpose of this partnership.

“Our agreement with SOMESICS stems from what we’re doing with CISA,” he began. “This is a project that SSH Accreditation has been working on for almost two years now, and SOMESICS is our first partner in our pilot for this new model.

“It stems from several things,” Jaeger continued. “We’ve been doing accreditation services through SSH for about 15 years and we have accredited more than 295 programs worldwide on six continents. Our process has been validated, tested and evaluated, and it truly is considered the gold standard for how we are recognizing simulation programs, not just in the United States, but globally. We are constantly involved in 360-degree-evaluation of how we run our program and how we deliver simulation accreditation worldwide.

“What we found, though, was something that we didn’t like particularly, which is that only about 15 percent of programs that are accredited are outside of the United States,” Jaeger observed. “That’s significant, because we consider ourselves an international simulation society. So we decided to seek other ways of doing this, and what we found was that instead of going out and doing simulation accreditation globally, we can commission simulation societies and have them accredit using SSH Accreditation in their regions of the world. And SOMESICS is our first pilot for that.”

Jaeger acknowledged that this is a significant shift in how SSH is approaching accreditation globally. “Instead of SSH Accreditation conducting program reviews in every corner of the world, we’re commissioning simulation societies, provided they are affiliated with SSH, to provide SSH Accreditation in their regions. It mitigates multiple barriers that exist, and there are many. Barriers that we deal with include language – all of SSH Accreditation documentation is in English, and the translation component of that is challenging. And it’s not only the translation of our written documentation, but also when we go on site reviews, speaking the language of a place we are going to is challenging, and we have a limited number of program reviewers that can go out and do these accreditations.

“Additionally,” Jaeger continued, “the cost of travel for review teams is a big is-

sue, and the time and effort it takes for travel to Europe or Asia or South America is very challenging. The cost to the programs is significant, and we can mitigate that by having reviewers who are from their home country or home region performing these services.”

“Another big component is that I think there’s a perception that SSH is often U.S.-centric,” he said, adding, “We don’t want that. We want it to be seen as a truly international society. And SSH Accreditation is a component of SSH. I think that a barrier exists to those programs thinking that they have to align themselves with simulation in the United States, and that’s not what we’re seeking. We’re looking for programs to be better for themselves in the way that they do simulation in their countries.”

“We’re very proud of what we’re doing here, and the affiliates that we have reached out to, including SOMESICS, are very excited about this,” Jaeger said. “The incoming Chair of Accreditation, Jarrod Young, SSH President Barry Issenberg and I had the opportunity to go to Mexico City in November for their annual conference, and to present on the new agreement with SOMESICS through CISA, and there was overwhelming support for this approach. They like that they’re going to have reviewers from their home country come and see their centers and have a full understanding of what they do. And I think that’s truly important.”

Jaeger said another important point is that “there are a lot of people who have worked on this. The current Accreditation Council and former Council members have all had a lot to do with the success of this so far. I also want to highlight the contributions of [SSH Staff Liaison] Kristyn Gadlage and all the work she’s done on it.”

Asked what he wants IMSH attendees to understand about this agreement, Jaeger said, “I think a big thing to recognize is that this is just the beginning. This has been a two year process for us to get started providing this kind of service. So now we’re in the pilot stage with SOMESICS. We are working with them on a weekly basis, and we are finding out where the pitfalls are and where we can improve, so that we are ready for our next set of pilots. And we’re planning on multiple pilots over the next couple of years with other [international simulation] societies. This is going to grow exponentially over the next five years.” 🌍

Continued from page 8

<> As we look to the future, the New to Simulation Affinity Group remains committed to supporting the growth and development of simulation education. **We will continue to:**

- Expand our reach to engage a wider audience of simulation educators.
- Strengthen our partnerships with other organizations to advance the field.
- Promote the use of evidence-based practice in simulation.
- Foster a supportive and inclusive community for all simulation educators.

Additionally, in the near future we are working to implement a robust mentorship program to support emerging simulation educators. We have defined clear goals and responsibilities for both mentors and mentees to ensure a productive and rewarding mentorship experience. **This program will include:**

- Mentorship Matching: To carefully match mentors and mentees based on their interests and needs.
- Leveraging SSH Resources: We will utilize SSH resources to facilitate connections between mentors and mentees.

• Ongoing Support: We hope to provide ongoing support to mentors and mentees through regular check-ins, workshops and other resources.

By working together, we can shape the future of simulation education and ensure that it remains a powerful tool for improving patient care and healthcare outcomes. 🧠



## LOOKING BACK, REACHING FORWARD

Submitted by Limbs & Things

**F**rom a kitchen countertop in the UK to a global business improving patient outcomes in over 70 countries, Limbs & Things has come a long way from its humble beginnings. And with it has come the introduction of new technologies to continue developing the learning experience of current and future medical professionals.

### LOOKING BACK

Limbs & Things [Booth 817] came into being in 1990 when Medical Artist, Margot Cooper saw the impending need for a change in the way clinical skills were learned. With a vision for improving clinical education, she set about creating task trainers for medical training out of her home in Bristol, UK.

To this day, Margot's mission remains the driver behind the business; To improve patient outcomes through a realistic learning

experience. Starting out with task trainers in place of using cadavers and animal flesh, one of the first Limbs & Things models was the Shoulder Injection Trainer. This used wire wool and an LED light to signify if the correct insertion site had been achieved. The shoulder model itself has progressed over the years with the introduction of wireless technology and an app that shows user feedback on procedures. But Limbs & Things has been pushing its technological advances even further than that in recent years.

### REACHING FORWARD

As the business has grown and reached a wider market, including opening a U.S. office, Limbs & Things has continuously invested in research and development to build on the core foundations of its simulators.

Now and looking into the future, the business is prioritizing investing in tech-

nology to take training with simulation to the next level.

Some of the latest advances in Limbs & Things technology include realistic, synchronized pathologies in the new Cardiovascular and Respiratory Examination Trainer (CaRE) and the introduction of Augmented Reality Training (ART) to the popular Prompt Birthing Simulator and Abdominal Examination Trainer.

Designed with an innovative system, CaRE is the first of its kind to synchronize pulses, heart and lung sounds and chest rise and fall at the same time. Through an online platform, learners can build basic skills through to complex clinical cases, such as sepsis and tension pneumothorax, receiving a hands-on experience in auscultation, palpation and diagnosis. It allows learners to build competency and confidence in their skills before treating real patients and offers access to training in rare and hard-to-diagnose conditions, with lifelike accuracy.

Following the successful launch of the Limbs & Things ART app in 2023, it's being continuously developed to work with more and more of their range of products. Now, learners can explore the internal anatomy of the Abdominal Examination Trainer by virtually overlaying it onto the physical model via a tablet or smartphone, allowing them to contextualize the effects of conditions like aortic aneurysm, ascites and gaseous distention.

Used with the PROMPT Birthing Simulator, ART takes learners through the different stages of labor from an internal perspective. They can build understanding of the baby's position in relation to the mother, visualize instances of shoulder dystocia and understand the hand positioning needed to resolve it.

You can get hands-on with CaRE and ART to understand the extent of their capabilities by visiting both 817 for a demonstration throughout IMSH 2025. 🧠

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