

IMSH DAILY

DAY TWO | January 12, 2026

PRESIDENT-ELECT HIGHLIGHTS GLOBAL COLLABORATION

As he prepares to assume the role of the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH) President for the coming year, SSH President-Elect Aaron Calhoun, MD, FSSH, offered his thoughts and perspectives on the current state of healthcare simulation and elaborated on some of his goals and priorities for the year ahead.

"I would say that we're in an interesting time where there's a lot of growth opportunity for both the field as a whole and for the Society at large," Calhoun began. "But I think we're also in a time where there is a greater perception of a need to collaborate in a more global sense. So much of the Society's focus has been on these strategic partnerships that will enable us to serve the global simulation community in new and creative ways."

"It's also a time where there's really a lot of rapid tech advancement," he continued. Referring to the explosive growth of AI, he




added, "I think there are a lot of opportunities to integrate that into what we do; find ways of making that serve our learners and serve the safety of the patients that we're >


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 #IMSH2026

 See the **SSH Events App** for Schedule Updates

OPENING PLENARY ENERGIZES IMSH 2026

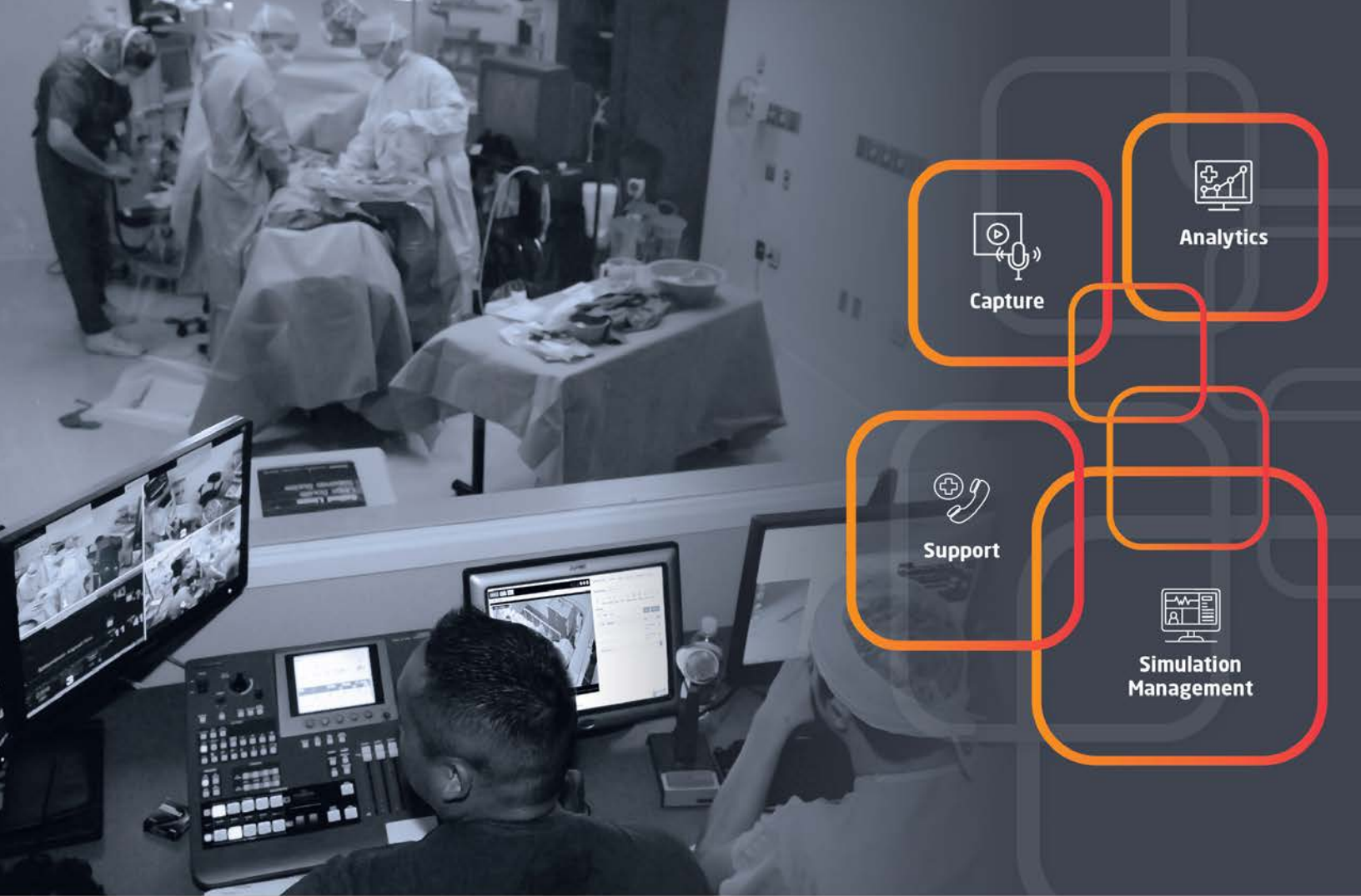
Sunday morning's plenary session launched IMSH 2026 with a challenge to look beyond the horizon toward the "unbound" potential of healthcare simulation.

UNBOUND is more than a theme, the audience was told. It's a declaration. It is an invitation to imagine, to explore and to shape the vast possibilities ahead where innovation and discovery are not guarded secrets, but gifts that magnify our collective impact, and where a shared legacy honors the trailblazers who brought us here while empowering each of us to carry their vision onward in ways even they may not have known or imagined in this >

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UNBOUND

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TODAY AT IMSH



Monday, January 12

**Plenary Session –
The Lou Oberndorf Lecture
on Innovation and Healthcare
Simulation featuring
Kevin Brown**
Stars at Night Ballroom –
8:15-9:30 am

Exhibit Hall Open
Exhibit Hall –
9:30 am-6:00 pm

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

**SSH Corporate Roundtable
Learning Labs**
Rooms 301A, 301B – 9:45-
10:45 am; 11:00 am-12:00 pm;
1:30-2:30 pm; 2:45-3:45 pm;
4:00-5:00 pm

**Corporate Roundtable Product
& Technology Showcase on
the IMSH Press Box Stage**
Exhibit Hall – 10:00-11:40 am

Lunch
Exhibit Hall –
11:30 am-1:30 pm

Technology Experiential Area
Exhibit Hall – 11:30 am-1:30 pm

SimVentors Showcase
Exhibit Hall – 11:30 am-1:30 pm

What's New in Sim Showcase
Exhibit Hall Theatre –
12:10-1:30 pm

**Mainstage Presentation –
Teaching Unbound: Lessons
in Practice, Teamwork, and
Growth from Mr. Miyagi and
Coach Lasso**
Lila Cockrell Theater –
1:30-2:30 pm

**Research Poster Professor
Rounds**
Exhibit Hall – 1:30-2:30 pm

**Corporate Roundtable Product
& Technology Showcase on
the IMSH Press Box Stage**
Exhibit Hall – 2:15-4:30 pm

**Mainstage Presentation –
The Wisdom of the Crowd!
– Findings from the Recent
Simulation 2050 Forum**
Lila Cockrell Theater –
4:00-5:00 pm

“Happy Hour”
Exhibit Hall – 4:30 – 6:00 pm



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



President's Ball



5K Run, Walk, and Roll

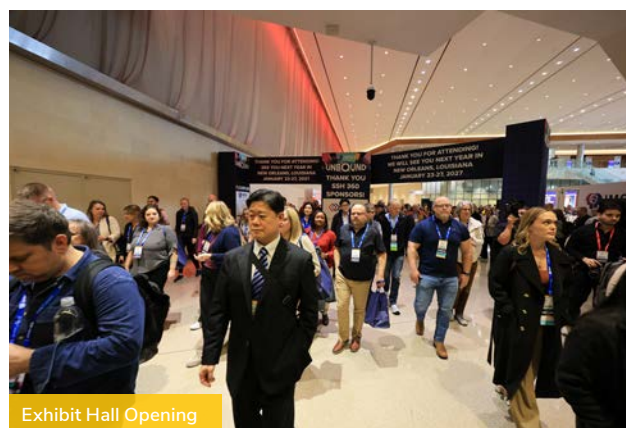


Exhibit Hall Opening

EDITOR:
Scott Gourley
scott_r_gourley@yahoo.com

ASSOCIATE EDITOR:
Galia (Gail) Gourley, RN, BSN
gail.gourley@gmail.com

ART DIRECTOR:
Robin McDowall
mcdowalldesign@gmail.com

PHOTOGRAPHER:
Ed Rieker/Rieker Media
riekermmedia@gmail.com


ADVERTISING SALES:
Olivia Fleenor
ofleenor@ssih.org
(202) 718-8431


SSH DIRECTOR OF MARKETING:
Curtis Kitchen
ckitchen@ssih.org

PUBLISHER:
Damion Harte
damion.harte@acemllc.com


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IMSH 2026 SHOWCASES RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

SIMVENTORS SHOWCASE IS OPEN ON MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 11:30 AM-1:30 PM

Two of the many dynamic aspects within the IMSH 2026 Exhibit Hall are Posters and SimVentors.

According to Trenell Croskey, BS, MCHM, Director of Continuing Education for the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH), Posters, or research abstracts, have long been a popular submission area for IMSH. "Each year we see over 250 submissions in this content area, and as IMSH attendance continues to trend up so do our submission numbers," Croskey said, observing that one reason for the high numbers of research abstract submissions is because those that are accepted to present at IMSH also have their abstracts published in the *Simulation in Healthcare Journal*.

IMSH 2026 will have 130 Posters on display, all categorized by similar topics. Posters went on display in the Exhibit Hall starting Sunday, and Poster presenters were stationed at their Posters for informal presentations that afternoon. Presenters will return to their Posters for formal Professor Rounds on Monday, January 12, 1:30 - 2:30 pm and Posters will remain on display until January 13, 2:00 pm.

Croskey described the SimVentors Showcase as "a unique and powerful resource to showcase the latest in healthcare technologies, inventions and games to an elite group of peers and judges to share ideas."

As with the increase in Posters submissions, he highlighted an increase in the number of SimVentors submissions to IMSH each year, stating, "This is a great way to showcase an innovation you've created and have it be seen by leaders from the simulation industry and community. Each year industry leaders visit the SimVentors Showcase area and it's possible they may request to establish a working partnership with the innovator."

In addition to great exposure, the SimVentors Showcase also comes with

prize money for winners of four categories: Best Impact; Best Innovation; Best Approach; and People's Choice."

Three of the four category winners are decided by a panel of judges, while the final winner is determined by IMSH attendees. Each category winner will receive \$1,250.

Asked about some of the other positive aspects and results that he has seen coming out of the SimVentors Showcase area, Croskey pointed to its service as a launch pad for business creation and growth, citing the representative examples of SimX and Avkin.

"SimX has done a tremendous job of giving their testimony to how they started at IMSH 11 years ago, where they were a category winner in SimVentors Showcase," echoed Olivia Fleenor, SSH Senior Meetings & Exhibits Coordinator. "After that, they gathered up enough funds to be able to exhibit in a 10-foot by 10-foot booth at IMSH, and now they occupy the largest footprint on our IMSH show floor. Last year they were acquired by Madison Industries and their CEO, Ryan Ribeira, MD, MPH, who started SimX out of his med school apartment, attributes a huge part of their success to IMSH and their initial presence in SimVentors."

"Avkin is in a similar situation," Fleenor continued. "They won one of the categories in SimVentors Showcase the same year as SimX, and now they are a very active member of the Corporate Roundtable with a very dynamic booth in the IMSH Exhibit Hall. And they attribute a lot of their success to that initial presence at SimVentors."

She added, "And that's what we're trying to do within this year's Corporate Roundtable Research & Development Workshop, which is basically a concept market development program for mentoring and guiding inventors and SimVentors participants in the creation of roughly five-year plans to move

their ideas from SimVentors to the show floor in some manner."

The workshop will be held on Monday from 2:45 to 3:45 pm in Room 304C.

Fleenor quickly cautioned, "That doesn't necessarily mean that they themselves are going to be a SimX. And it doesn't necessarily mean they themselves are going to go on to start their own company and grow it into this huge asset that ends up getting acquired. It could be that the SimVentor is a sim tech at a sim center who sees a need to be filled, and they want to do that for their own benefit and the benefit of their sim center. They might decide to stay at their sim center, because they really don't want that corporate life that comes with all that corporate stress. They're very passionate about doing sim, but maybe their five-year plan looks more like an industry member walking through, seeing the invention, wondering why their research team didn't see it first, and either buying it or bringing the SimVentor on as a consultant to their team to further develop the item."

"There are a ton of different ways to move forward, but by doing that, it helps the inventors, the participants, and the end users that need these things in their sim centers," she said. "And then it also helps IMSH and SSH, because it brings more to our show floor, to allow continued growth. So that's something we're working on right now. It's not a secret, by any means, but one piece of that is this workshop that's happening at IMSH this year. It's where innovation meets impact, turning gaps into game changers."

For those not involved in the Research & Development Workshop, Croskey urged IMSH attendees to check out the 67 exceptional innovations showcased in this year's SimVentors Showcase, which is open on Monday, January 12, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm on the left side of the Exhibit Hall near the Research Posters. 🧐

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<> looking ultimately to protect, while still navigating the thorny issues of how we use this well, and how we implement it in a rational and safe manner."

At the same time, Calhoun said he's also observed that some of the best data for how simulation can impact people's lives comes from some of the "lower middle income countries," adding that "some of the strongest studies out there about the impact simulation can make in infant mortality, for example, come from some of the 'Helping Babies Breathe' studies in Sub-Saharan Africa."

According to Calhoun, this demonstrates that expansion in simulation is happening in multiple directions; not only toward more advanced technology, but also toward "understanding ways that we can do a lot of good with a lot less."

Given all the opportunities, Calhoun said, "I'm looking forward, in this role, to helping us as a Society leverage these possibilities and do the most good possible."

As SSH President for the coming year, Calhoun specified some of his top priorities. "Number one, I want to focus on enhancing international engagement," he emphasized. "I see a lot of collaboration and global unity in our community, and that's something I want to both encourage and keep pushing forward as we move into the future."

Another area of importance, Calhoun said, is to ask "how do we actually know what best practices are? How do we know what the state of the science is? So one collaborative that we're forming is an International Liaison Council on Simulation that's looking to basically conduct reviews of the scientific literature on an ongoing, rolling basis, so that we can really have good state-of-the-science syntheses, as up-to-date as possible."

"This is important because the information we have out there on how simulation works really spans a broad array of different ways of getting information," Calhoun continued. "We have to find ways of bringing that information together and getting it out there to the global community to achieve the best outcomes possible."

Calhoun said he'd also like to focus on helping the entire healthcare field to have a "deeper understanding of what it is we [simulationists] do and how we can help

them out. Within the Society, I think there's a very clear idea that this isn't just about teaching; it's teaching plus patient safety, systems testing, and all these things that let us increase the safety and the reproducibility of the care we give."

But Calhoun acknowledged that among some organizations, "there tends to be an idea that simulation is largely about a way of delivering education, and so we're looking at forming partnerships and relationships to help get the message out that we can actually do a lot more for them than that; that we've got a tool, and there are many things we can apply that tool to. This is like a multi-purpose tool that a lot of good can be done with."

Calhoun highlighted both challenges and opportunities in the current dynamic environment. Specifically, he said, "I do think that we live in a more fragmented world than we might have five or 10 years ago, where it seems like people are a little more in their own silos in various ways. I think what we can do in our Society is to help open that up. We can be the connection in our field that might not exist in other venues at present. And so, again, I really want to lean into this idea of international presence and collaboration, so that we can build bridges, and we can be the ones that connect people together, rather than just reinforcing a status quo."

Bringing these concepts into the context of IMSH 2026, Calhoun said he likes the theme *UNBOUND* "because it's simple, it's direct, and I think it allows participants and attendees at the conference to really see a bit of their own story and to ask what it means for them to engage in simulation in a way that isn't constrained by 'fill in the blank,' whatever is constraining them from being what they can be in the field."

Calhoun highlighted what he characterized as "the broad expanse" of the field, offering, "We're not just this narrow niche that knows this one set of content, although we do know it well. But this is a type of approach to care that can be broadened across all number of content areas," he empha-

sized, citing examples such as cardiology, patient safety, critical care, or rural medicine. "I think the theme helps us realize that any barriers we're putting up to what we can use simulation for are artificial. They're of our own making. We can take them down, and we can move beyond that, and we can find new and creative ways of implementing this."

At IMSH, Calhoun encourages attendees to "firm up those networks that you have with people both domestically and internationally, local and regional, and find new people to collaborate with as well." He added, "Look for new attendees, and make connections so those newcomers that are coming into the Society feel that welcome and connectedness."

And to the event's newcomers, he said, "Be bold, go and meet new people. There is nobody at this conference who is not absolutely willing to connect with everybody else, so don't let that stop you from making connections."

"I'd also encourage people to find ways of engaging with the Society as we're moving forward with our strategic plan," Calhoun said. "We've got a lot of really ambitious goals to achieve, and it's going to take volunteer power to do that. It's going to take people being willing to give of their time, people that see that greater goal and see the greater good that we can do. Look for ways of contributing to Committees, to Councils, to Sections. Look for ways to get into leadership. Use this conference as a jumping off spot for doing good in the world and building your career at the same time."

Above all, Calhoun encourages IMSH attendees to "just be present. Be there. Be engaged. Engage with the content. Go find some things you've never learned before; something that you've never heard of that interests you, or something that you've never heard of that you're not sure would interest you, and just try it out. Find something new, engage with some new aspect of the field, expand your horizons a bit. Be 'unbound.'"

“ I see a lot of collaboration and global unity in our community, and that's something I want to both encourage and keep pushing forward as we move into the future.

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS IN LIFE-SAVING CARE FOR WOMEN

Women make up around half of the world's population, yet it's reported that the majority of all training manikins are "flat-chested" or representative of a lean, male anatomy.

A recent study published in *BMC Cardiovascular Disorders* has shed more light on a troubling reality in emergency medicine: although the risk of a cardiac event is similar in both genders, women experiencing cardiac arrest are significantly less likely to receive bystander CPR.

The hesitation that participants expressed, including those that were medical students, is due to lack of confidence and practical experience with diverse anatomical presentations.

Many healthcare professionals in educational roles have highlighted that there's a significant lack of female training manikins in the market, making it harder to develop those skills before healthcare trainees encounter real patients.

Limbs & Things continues to be committed to improving patient outcomes and has developed a Female Breast Overlay to address the under-representation of gender

within simulation. Fitted with adjustable straps, the overlay can be attached to existing simulation manikins, allowing educators and trainees to incorporate the treatment of women in their medical training and addressing societal and gender biases that are present in some existing training programs.

The challenge of gender under-representation in simulation extends beyond CPR, into wider clinical settings where healthcare students, residents, and professionals must perform many examinations and procedural skills, requiring confidence and competence regardless of patient gender.

The Female Breast Overlay has been developed to represent the chest of a 50-year-old+ woman, with adjustable straps to allow versatile use across a broad range of existing simulation manikins of different types, function and sizes.

With the addition of removable, adjustable breasts, educators can broaden the scope of medical simulation training, including: increasing training realism for health screenings, examinations and emergency response; boosting patient handling skills



with training scenarios that include a range of anatomical presentations; strengthening staff preparedness for gender inclusive care scenarios; supporting more accurate practice of procedures such as palpation, positioning, and fitting of medical devices; doubling simulation capabilities without purchasing additional full-body or torso manikins; and opening discussion regarding adapting to different patient anatomy. 🧠

'UNBOUND' LEADERSHIP: REDEFINING OUR COMMUNITY BEYOND TITLES

At IMSH 2025, the Society for Simulation in Healthcare's Director Section met with engaged participants for a lively and forward-thinking discussion about the Section's identity and inclusivity. One of the key topics centered on a potential name change aimed at better representing the broad and diverse leadership roles within our simulation community.

We received tremendous input from members, including several thoughtful alternative names designed to reduce confusion and foster inclusivity. There was unanimous support for adopting a name that welcomes all individuals serving in leadership capacities, regardless of their official title.

Several participants shared that they do not currently hold a "Director" title and initially believed this might disqualify them from participating in the Section. This feedback has surfaced repeatedly over time, and we deeply appreciate those who chose to engage regardless of title. Many expressed how meaningful their involvement has been, citing the mentorship, shared resources, and strong sense of professional community they have found here.

Our goal in considering this change is simple: to ensure that all formal and informal leaders in simulation feel included. Removing "Director" from the name acknowledges the wide spectrum of leadership roles that exist across simulation programs; coordinators, managers, administrators, faculty, and

others who play pivotal roles in advancing simulation-based education and operations.

After extensive discussion and strong consensus, our Section proposed renaming the Section to the Simulation Program Leadership Section. This title was the most widely supported option and best represents the spirit and purpose of our community. It reinforces the idea that leadership in simulation extends far beyond titles; it is about those who inspire innovation, guide growth, and foster excellence in simulation programs.

With over 900 active members, this Section continues to thrive as a hub for collaboration, mentorship, and professional development, uniting simulation leaders at every level. 🧠

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<> moment. We are not constrained. We are not defined by limits. We stand at the threshold of the next generation of health care simulation, ready to frame our future with fresh perspective energy and our “unbound” passionate pursuit of improved patient care for all.

That introduction led to the stage arrival of this year’s Planning Team Co-chairs, Syretta Spears, Amy Follmer, and John Alex.

“We are excited to welcome you all to San Antonio for the 26th anniversary of the International Meeting for Simulation in Healthcare,” Alex said. “Syretta, Amy, and I have spent the past year getting ready for this year’s gathering, and we cannot wait for it all to unfold.”

After acquainting the audience with some of the unique technology features incorporated into this year’s gathering, the team introduced Lou Faustini, Chief Executive Officer of Education Management Solutions (EMS), the exclusive Presidential Sponsor of IMSH 2026.

Addressing the audience, Faustini observed, “It’s amazing to see so many passionate educators, clinicians, researchers, innovators, and partners. We’re all gathered here for a shared purpose; that’s advancing the way we teach, the way we learn, and ultimately, the way we care for patients. This year’s theme, *UNBOUND* is a perfect invitation to the week that’s ahead of us; to think beyond established boundaries, to challenge the way that we’ve always done things, to reimagine what’s possible in education technology and in clinical practice. We’ll just move forward together.”

He added, “Over the next few days, you’ll have countless opportunities to interact, to make new connections, to learn from peers and pioneers, explore emerging tools, make advancements, look at evidence, bring home ideas that hopefully you can put into action right away while you’re here, I encourage you to be fully present, ask extra questions, go deep, meet someone new. It’s my first IMSH, so I’m meeting a lot of new people. Step into sessions. There are so many sessions that stretch your imagination or stretch your perspective. IMSH is where the community comes together to share what’s working, to learn from what didn’t work, and to shape what’s next in the healthcare community.”

Faustini then turned the stage over to IMSH 2025 President Jared Kutzin, whom he described as “a leader who represents the heart

of this community and the commitment to progress.”

“There is no better place to be this morning than right here together at IMSH,” Kutzin began. “It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the SSH [Society for Simulation in Healthcare] for the past year, and I want to thank you for the opportunity.”

Kutzin then reviewed some of the highlights from the past year, beginning with praise of the sponsors, IMSH Planning Team, Board of Directors, and SSH Staff.

He continued, “Over the past year, the progress we made towards achieving our strategic goals was made possible by the nearly 200 volunteer members from SSH who generously give of their time to support our Councils, Commissions, Committees, Sections, Special Interest Groups and Affinity and Regional Groups. SSH is a model of member engagement, and on behalf of the Board, thank you for making our Society such a diverse, inclusive, and representative organization.”

Kutzin extended his thanks to “industry partners who helped make this another record-breaking year at IMSH,” adding, “I took a little sneak peek at the Exhibit Hall. It is massive. We walked in and we were blown away. The technology, the engagement, it’s truly something that we’ve never seen before. The industry showcases at IMSH are where the latest innovations and solutions are on full display. The engagement, excitement, energy pulsing through the exhibits create an environment bright for connection, collaboration, and inspiration. We are a unique organization in which our industry partners are truly collaborators and colleagues. So thank you to all of our industry partners and colleagues for your support. And finally, thank you to all of you. You are the reason that we are here, why all the people and organizations do what we do. We are here for you so you can better educate healthcare students and staff, invest in research, develop new innovations, and deliver better and safer patient care.”

Kutzin then shifted his comments to a review of achievements and milestones.

“We’re in the second year of our five-year strategic plan,” he explained, “And we have put it into action. The following are just a few examples of the incredible work that SSH



IMSH 2026 Planning Team Co-chairs

has been doing to meet the ambitious goals we have set out to achieve advocacy; local, regional, national and global advocacy efforts. We couldn’t have done this without our partners, our affiliates...and we’re fortunate to have so many affiliate organizations that we consider colleagues and friends. Our collective vision and mission to use simulation to enhance education and training, foster research and innovation, reduce patient harm, and improve health outcomes, can only be achieved through this collaboration.”

Elaborating on the advocacy efforts, he highlighted specific activities ranging from meetings with legislators to advocate for inclusion of monies for simulation programs to the SimOps event that provides another great opportunity for bringing the healthcare simulation community to local, smaller areas that may not have access to the large conferences.

Kutzin highlighted other achievements stemming from SSH’s work with the Commission for International Simulation Accreditation (CISA) and the growth of accreditation partners.

Other administrative announcements included the addition of Phoenix, Arizona to the locations for future IMSH gatherings.

He concluded his remarks with the award of his first Presidential Citation, presented to Grace C. Huang, MD, who he recognized “for providing an outlet for simulation scenarios to be peer reviewed and PubMed indexed, and for extraordinary dedication to advancing the field through their 14 years on the editorial board of *Simulation in Healthcare* and eight years as editor-in-chief of *MedEdPORTAL*.”

“She’s a friend, she’s a colleague, and she’s a mentor,” he said. “Her leadership and vision have left a lasting impact on myself and the field of healthcare, education, and the global simulation community.”

PLENARY KEYNOTE

Sunday morning's plenary included the Chad Epps Memorial Lecture, with keynote speaker Tania Katan delivering a high-energy, deeply human call to action built around one central idea: creativity belongs everywhere, especially in places that think they do not need it.

She began by asking the audience to recognize themselves. "Put your hands up if you've ever had an innovative idea..." Hands went up across the room. Katan acknowledged that these were often not recognized and reframed this familiar frustration as evidence of leadership, not failure. Her term for pushing bold ideas into unlikely environments is "creative trespassing," a practice she described as both proven and necessary.

"If we bring more creativity into less overtly creative spaces, times, and industries," she said, "we will experience more innovations, more joy, and more human connection." For years, she noted, creativity was dismissed as a flimsy soft skill. Now, culture has caught up. "Creativity and creative thinking is the number

one skill that we all need in our jobs, in our lives, and in the world."

Rather than easing into theory, Katan immediately activated the room. She invited the audience to give themselves a standing ovation before any ideas were pitched. "Sit down physically," she urged, "but stay standing emotionally for the whole talk." The message was clear: when bold ideas meet blank stares later, the community will still be cheering.

Katan shared stories from her career working in industries where she "didn't belong," from museums to Fortune 500 companies. In one pivotal moment, she was introduced at a CIO summit not as a Chief Information Officer, but as a "Chief Inspiration Officer." That reframing shifted everything. "The minute I started to merge what I do and who I am into a job title based on purpose rather than performance," she said, "I started to feel a whole lot better about what I did in the world."

Audience participation anchored the talk. Attendees reimagined their job titles based on

purpose, becoming "rogue hype squads," "professional pot stirrers," and "decompressing educators." Laughter filled the room, but the lesson was serious. Playfulness fuels productivity. "Fun and working are not mutually exclusive," Katan said. "The more playful we are, the more productive we are in our work."

She emphasized constraints as catalysts, sharing research that showed creativity expands when options are limited. "Creativity loves constraints," she reminded the audience, as they tackled real institutional barriers through rapid exercises. Funding gaps became revenue opportunities. Lack of buy-in became "Sim Wars." Small programs became grant-funded success stories.

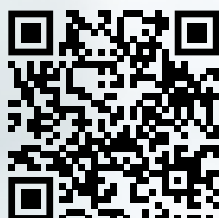
Throughout, Katan returned to one powerful question: "What if?" She described it as a way to lower stakes, unlock possibility, and challenge limiting beliefs. "'What if' allows for possibilities beyond this time and space," she said.

The session closed with a collective commitment to risk, collaboration, and humanity. On one final clap, the room affirmed its role as creative trespassers, ready to break rules in service of better outcomes. 🧠

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SIMULATION-GROUNDED COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION AFFINITY GROUP SUPPORTS COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY

As healthcare professional education continues to move toward competency-based education (CBE), integration of simulation-based education within a CBE framework in an effective and synergistic manner remains challenging for many. The Simulation-Grounded Competency-Based Education Affinity Group (SG-CBE AG) exists to support a collaborative networking community of simulationists, medical educators, program administrators, and anyone who wants to learn with, from, and about each other's use of simulation in CBE, and advance the integration of high-quality simulation in CBE while driving its evolution through strategic and evidence informed simulation use.

In 2025, we hosted multiple educational and networking sessions facilitated by experts to help define and deepen our understanding of

CBE and the role of simulation-based education within it. The engagement and passion of the members of the SG-CBE AG has been tremendous, and there are now multiple working groups spanning the breadth of simulation, from pre-briefing to debriefing, assessment, and everything in between, not to mention groups examining how to administer simulation in CBE on a program level.

As we move into 2026, we hope to continue to harness the passion and expertise of the group's members and provide further opportunities for experts and beginners alike to develop their knowledge and leverage each other's strategies for success. The AG will continue to host educational and networking sessions driven by the needs of its members, as the working groups move forward in establishing new ways of thinking about simulation. Ultimately, our goal is to foster deeper understanding, inspired innovation, and enhanced



Marie Gilbert



Curtis Nickel

training for all healthcare professions through the meaningful use of simulation in CBE. 🧠

- By Co-Chairs Curtis Nickel MD MEd FRCPC and Marie Gilbert DNP, RN, CHSE-A, FSSH

CERTIFIED HEALTHCARE SIMULATION OPERATIONS SPECIALIST EDUCATION ADVISORY TEAM: BREAKING BOUNDARIES IN SIMULATION EDUCATION

This past year, the Certified Healthcare Simulation Operations Specialist (CHSOS) Education Advisory Team worked to break boundaries and remove limitations in healthcare simulation education, empowering the global Operations Specialist community to achieve their certification goals. Our mission is to create opportunities that expand access and redefine what is possible in professional development.

We facilitated multiple CHSOS courses in both virtual and in-person formats, providing structured guidance for professionals preparing for CHSOS certification. These courses were not static; they evolved. The team worked dil-

igently to update course materials, ensuring alignment with the latest best practices and emerging technologies in healthcare simulation.

Recognizing the importance of diverse expertise, we also onboarded new course

faculty, bringing fresh perspectives and expanding our capacity to deliver engaging, learner-centered experiences. This infusion of talent has strengthened our ability to meet the growing demand for certification support worldwide.

In the spirit of being "unbound" by traditional constraints, we shattered geographic and technological barriers, leveraging virtual platforms to reach learners across continents. Our work demonstrates that when education is accessible, inclusive, and innovative, the possibilities for healthcare simulation are limitless.

As we look ahead, the CHSOS Education Advisory Team remains committed to inspiring excellence and expanding what is possible, one certified Operations Specialist at a time.

Join us in 2026! We have prepared an exciting schedule of courses designed to help you achieve CHSOS certification. Registration is now open. Scan the QR code to reserve your spot and take the next step in your professional journey. 🧠



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SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Scholarship recipients for IMSH 2026 shared with *IMSH Daily* how they became interested in simulation, what they want to accomplish in their future endeavors, what receiving the scholarship award means for them, and what they hope to derive from attending IMSH.

Beverlee Anderson Education Scholarship Awardees

Established in memory of the first Executive Director of the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH), the Beverlee Anderson Scholarship Fund provides financial assistance to healthcare simulationists who would otherwise be unable to attend the annual International Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare (IMSH). Beverlee Anderson Education Scholarships are made possible in part by generous donations to the SSH Fund. Supporting the SSH Fund helps enable a greater diversity of individuals to participate in this transformative event.

The scholarship includes full registration for IMSH, a travel stipend, registration for one IMSH pre-conference immersive course, and one year of SSH full membership.

EMILY BISHOP

Healthcare Simulation Technician III; CNA; BA (Anthropology)
Colorado University - University of Colorado
College of Nursing (Anschutz Medical Campus)
Aurora, Colorado



My professional career began in 2010 after being certified as a nursing assistant, working in skilled long-term care and life support, med/surg, ortho/neuro, and hospice. After graduating college with a degree in Anthropology in 2022, I then worked as an Archaeologist and crew chief for two years before being laid off after a high-profile dig was completed. At this time, I chose to return to my roots in nursing for more reliable employment. I was offered an interview as a Healthcare Technician, a position with the University of Colorado College of Nursing at Anschutz Medical Campus. To be completely transparent, I was semi-unaware of what the job entailed because I assumed that the duties would be like that of a

CNA. I was pleasantly surprised when I began to familiarize myself with the science of healthcare simulation and my role within simulation operations, which I instantly fell in love with. By joining the healthcare simulation community, I have found my passion.

My greatest achievement has been piloting and pioneering the Sustainability in Simulation Operations initiative in our nursing program at the University of Colorado. I will be presenting this Hot Topic (73031) at IMSH 2026 to encourage improvements in best practice and overall planetary health. In just a year, this medical waste diversion system has significantly decreased the quantity of non-contaminant plastic/durable medical materials that would have been rendered trash if not reused. It is my goal as a simulationist to seek as many opportunities as possible to engage with our community through presentations, media, and published material; ultimately propelling simulation operations in a direction that favors decreasing our environmental footprint as a scientific community.

To be a recipient of the Beverlee Anderson Education Scholarship is an absolute privilege. Words cannot express my full gratitude. I recently moved to an apartment closer to campus for work, an event that occurred in tandem with the acceptance of my abstracts for IMSH 2026. Without this scholarship I would have struggled significantly to fund my trip to San Antonio, likely not being able to attend or present at all. To me, this award means that simulation operations personnel and their contributions to the simulation community are valued, meaning what I contribute to the conversation at IMSH 2026 is valuable. Thank you, Beverlee Anderson Education Scholarship decision makers, for including me!

Attending IMSH 2026 will be height of my professional life thus far, bar none. In January, I will be presenting as a simulationist for the very first time, gaining a platform to raise awareness for the urgency to implement sustainability in healthcare simulation programs globally. In addition to the Hot Topic I am presenting, I will also be participating in a podium presentation on *Supporting the Advancement of Simulation Operations Within a Simulation Program* (79920); an important topic that outlines a tiering system for Simulation Technicians like me to advance professionally. With these monumental mo-

ments will come increased confidence in myself as both a public speaker and an influencer. Most importantly though, my attendance at IMSH provides me the opportunity to learn from the world's largest simulation community.

JOHN DEMAIO

BS, EMT, EMS-I
Stamford Health
Stamford, Connecticut



I discovered simulation as a way to share the practical lessons I've learned from over two decades of clinical care. It allows me to turn real-world experiences into safe, structured learning opportunities that build confidence and improve skills for healthcare teams.

My goal is to make simulation an integral part of everyday practice for clinical teams. By expanding access to high-quality, immersive education, I hope to help clinicians feel prepared for critical scenarios and ultimately deliver exceptional patient care.

Receiving the Beverlee Anderson Education Scholarship is an incredible honor. It affirms my commitment to this amazing profession and gives me the chance to learn from leaders in the field. It's also a reminder of how mentorship and community shape professional growth.

At IMSH, I'm excited to gain insights into emerging trends, deepen my understanding of accreditation standards, and connect with peers who share a passion for simulation. Attending IMSH is a unique opportunity to collaborate, exchange ideas, and bring innovative solutions back to my organization.

DR. SOHEIR ELBANNA

MSN, MBA, Master in Planning for Sustainable Development
(Institute of National Planning, Egypt), PhD(c)
The Egyptian Chinese University
Cairo, Egypt



My interest in simulation grew from both my professional journey and a deeply personal experience. After the loss of my three young daughters, my perspective on healthcare changed profoundly – from that of a provider to that of a healthcare consumer. This experience reshaped my vision and motivated me to transform personal pain into

purpose. Simulation became, for me, a powerful tool to improve safety, communication, and clinical decision-making, helping healthcare systems better protect patients and families during their most vulnerable moments.

I aim to advance value-based, patient-centered simulation education in Egypt and the Middle East. My goal is to integrate simulation into healthcare training, quality improvement, and systems-based learning, with a strong focus on patient safety, compassion, and outcomes that truly matter to patients and families.

Receiving this award is deeply meaningful to me. It represents international recognition not only of my professional work, but also of the personal journey that has shaped my commitment to improving healthcare through simulation. It is both an honor and a responsibility that reinforces my dedication to this field. Sometimes, a single opportunity is all it takes to change your trajectory.

By attending IMSH, I hope to learn from global leaders in simulation, gain exposure to innovative practices, and build meaningful professional collaborations. My intention is to translate these insights into sustainable simulation initiatives that enhance education, healthcare quality, and patient outcomes in my home country.

Bob Waters Memorial Scholarship

To honor the memory of Bob Waters, an advocate for healthcare simulation and a good friend to the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH), the Advanced Initiative in Medical Simulation (AIMS) Board and SSH established the Bob Waters Memorial Scholarship Fund to support students in healthcare simulation. The scholarship includes full registration for IMSH, one year of SSH student membership, and a travel stipend to attend IMSH.

Bob Waters Scholarship Recipient

PRAJJWOL LUITEL, MBBS

Maharajgunj Medical Campus,
Institute of Medicine, Tribhuvan University
Kathmandu, Nepal



My interest in simulation began during the COVID-19 pandemic, when I was in my third year of medical school. At a time when we should have been learning in wards and clinics, we were confined to our homes. That disruption forced me to rethink how clinical skills could be learned safely

and effectively outside traditional settings. I remember practicing knot-tying using sewing thread at home, which made me curious about alternative learning methods. When we eventually returned to clinical training, my first exposure to neonatal resuscitation simulation made a lasting impression. It demonstrated how simulation could bridge gaps in training while prioritizing patient safety. This interest deepened further through my role as a co-investigator on an INSPIRE-funded study evaluating virtual operating room simulation to reduce perioperative anxiety in children. Being involved in study design and data collection solidified my belief that simulation is an essential component of modern medical education.

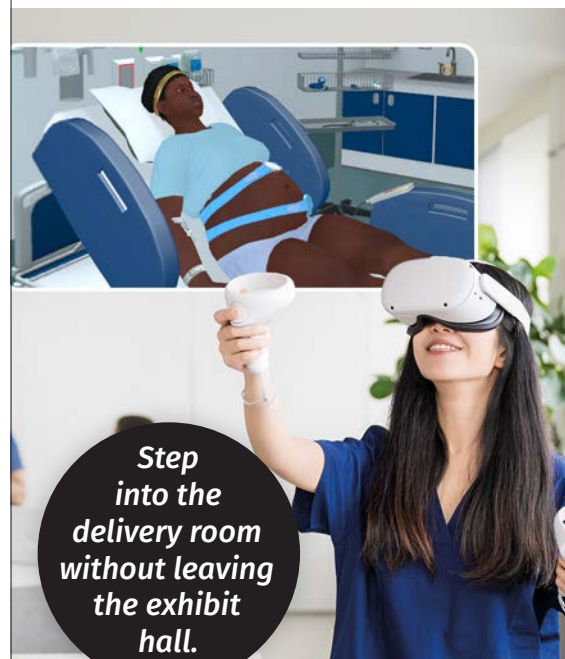
In many low- and middle-income countries, including Nepal, simulation is often perceived as expensive and poorly suited to local contexts. My goal is to challenge that notion by contributing to the design of context-specific, high-fidelity simulation models that are affordable, adaptable, and impactful. Ultimately, I hope to advance simulation science in a way that meaningfully improves medical education, teamwork, and patient care in resource-limited settings.

Simulation in healthcare is in its infancy in Nepal, with limited access to workshops, conferences, and scholarly exchange. Much of what I have learned so far has come through personal initiative and informal mentorship. Receiving this award provides an invaluable opportunity to engage with leaders who have shaped the field over decades, learn about state-of-the-art technologies, and connect with a broader simulation community. As this will be my first international conference focused on simulation, I am excited for it.

At IMSH, I am most looking forward to building meaningful, mutual connections with educators and researchers who share similar interests. Beyond networking, I hope to gain practical insights into simulation design, implementation, and evaluation. The challenges we encountered while developing and implementing our virtual OR project highlighted blind spots in my knowledge and the need for structured mentorship in simulation. I plan to use the knowledge and experience gained at IMSH to help lay the foundation for a simulation culture at my institution and, in the longer term, contribute to advancing simulation science in Nepal. 🌍

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DON'T MISS THE IMSH TECHNOLOGY EXPERIENTIAL AREA

[The Technology Experiential Area is open Monday, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm in the Exhibit Hall]

The Technology Committee of the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH) has broad goals, including fostering understanding of technology by the simulation community and accelerating the adoption of emerging technology.

This year, the Technology Committee undertook multiple initiatives to provide technical education opportunities and resources for the community. Notably, Committee members Dan Katz and Rob Maniker led the organization of a Technology Forum, which



was held over the two days prior to the opening of IMSH 2026. The Forum covered multiple topic areas, with presentations as well as extensive breakout sessions.

Additionally, the Committee continues to have a large presence across the IMSH conference, including panel discussions and hosting a Technology Experiential Area (TEA) in the Exhibit Hall. The TEA is a space for attendees to experience and learn about new technologies on the show floor, without them being associated with any specific vendor or product.

'UNBOUND' INNOVATION: DEVELOPMENT AND DISSEMINATION OF VALIDATED PEDIATRIC SIMULATION SCENARIOS

Pediatric simulation-based education has grown significantly in recent years, with a strong emphasis on high-fidelity simulations and immersive learning environments. Studies show that simulation is an effective method for improving the proficiency and competence of healthcare professionals working with children. However, there are still gaps in pediatric scenario validation and reliability, with many studies failing to verify the effectiveness of their simulation models. Pediatric simulation scenarios often focus on emergency interventions, such as neonatal resuscitation, pediatric trauma management, and respiratory distress, leaving a gap in access to pediatric scenarios for other healthcare environments such as pediatric medical-surgical floors, outpatient units, and specialty units.

The SSH Pediatric Section is implementing a project that aligns with the IMSH 2026 conference goals of synergy and collaboration, breaking down silos, and global reach and inclusion. Following the ADDIE [Analysis, Design, Development, Implementation, and Evaluation] framework, we are addressing the needs of pe-

diatric healthcare simulationists through a collaboration with industry leader iRIS.

The iRIS Scenario Design System is an innovative, collaborative platform designed to streamline healthcare simulation scenario creation and management. iRIS is an AI-powered, interoperable cloud-based software system, enabling healthcare educators to design, develop, and manage high-quality simulation scenarios collaboratively. Interoperability allows for the seamless export of scenarios to manikins and other technologies. It empowers educators and clinicians to efficiently design, refine, and share standardized simulation experiences that enhance healthcare training. With guided scenario development, access to a vast library of validated cases, and seamless integration with simulation technologies, iRIS ensures high-quality, evidence-based learning. Its intuitive interface facilitates collaboration across institutions, fostering best practices and improving clinical competency in a risk-free environment.

Our goal is to develop a database of validated pediatric simulation cases that is easily accessible. This year-long project started in October 2025 with a needs assessment completed by an interprofessional team of pediatric simulationists and will continue through the fall of 2026.

The Pediatric Section is hosting a panel discussion [Wednesday, January 14, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm, Room 008B] to discuss the goals, implementation, and challenges of this pediatric simulation project. 🧠

Finally, the Committee has led the development of a technology white paper, including topics related to artificial intelligence, extended reality, physical simulations, and other emerging technologies. The white paper will serve as a resource for the membership to improve their technical knowledge, and for industry to assist in understanding user needs and desired technical direction.

The Technology Committee always welcomes additional ideas and involvement from the broad SSH membership. If you or your colleagues have additional interest in the Technology Committee or simulation technology in general, please find us in the TEA space at IMSH 2026. 🧠

INTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE FOSTERS MEMBER GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

The Internal Relations Committee (IRC) of the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH) is committed to supporting member growth, development, and advancement of Sections, Special Interest Groups (SIGs), and Affinity Groups (AG) by developing and facilitating collaboration. This collaboration can foster growth between and within Interest Groups, other Society Committees, administration and staff, and the Board of Directors.

One of our Committee goals is to explore how to personalize and tailor SSH information to our new and existing members. We are also conducting a Delphi study on developing an engagement index to help pave the way for future leaders from our membership and develop resources for our Sections, SIGs, and AGs to support their success.

SSH has resources to support your professional growth and goals. To learn more, attend the IRC Presentation [Monday, January 12, 9:45 – 10:45 am, Room 302C].

To meet our goals, we need your help! Complete your SSH Profile today by scanning the QR code. Complete the information in the Account Section, then select Sections, SIGs, and AGs to network with those of similar interests. 🧠



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