IMSH
Society for Simulation in Healthcare
JANUARY 13 - 17, 2018 | LOS ANGELES, CA USA

Call for Abstracts
Research Study/Innovation Project

The Planning Committee for the ***18th International Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare (IMSH 2018)*****,** is seeking abstracts describing research and innovation projects in healthcare simulation. We welcome abstracts describing scholarship regarding the use of simulation to address a variety of healthcare-related issues, including, but not limited to:

Training
Assessment
Patient care delivery
Patient safety
Quality improvement
Systems analysis & modeling
Medical device evaluation
High-fidelity manikin-based simulation
Virtual reality and 3D systems
Serious games
Standardized patients
Hybrid models
Task trainers
Low cost/low resource innovations
Technical modifications
And many more!

All abstracts submitted will be reviewed in a rigorous, blinded, peer-review process.

Abstract will be accepted in the following categories:

1. **Research Study.** Abstracts representing either completed or nearly complete studies in which simulation is either the subject of the research or is used as a research tool. A specific research question and hypothesis are required. Established research methodologies and theoretical frameworks should inform the intervention, study design, and assessment process. Nearly complete works may receive *conditional acceptance*, with final data submission due 9/1/2017. These studies would be evaluated for formal acceptance after a second review.
2. **NEW! Research Study Development & Presentation Program.** Abstracts describing studies in the development phase or in early stages of implementation for which the author wishes to receive focused review and feedback. Accepted abstracts will participate in small, topic or research related groups to present their work. An experienced professor mentor will provide feedback during this session.
3. **Innovation Projects.** Abstracts describing new or innovative programming or technology. These may include some type of evaluative process, but it is not a requirement. This category includes entries to the Spectrum of Ideas and Serious Games/Virtual Environments Showcase.

NOTIFICATIONS
Decisions will be sent in early fall 2017.

Please note: The Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH) strongly recommends that users of simulation-based learning equipment consult with manufacturers regarding equipment warranty and/or repair policies prior to making any modification.

Presentation Formats
Accepted abstracts will be eligible for presentation in one of the following formats:

- Poster Sessions
- Educational Program Session Courses
- 8th Serious Games/Virtual Environments Showcase
- 4th Spectrum of Ideas Showcase

The final presentation format will be determined by the Review Committee.

Accepted **Research Studies** will be published in an online edition of *Simulation in Healthcare*.

Presentation Requirements
Presenters must register for IMSH 2018 and are not eligible for discounted IMSH registration fees. Presenters are responsible for IMSH general session registration, lodging, and travel to the meeting.

Marketing and promotional content may not be included when presenting abstracts at IMSH 2018.

Submission Categories

1. NEW! Abstract – Research Study Development & Presentation Program

This new abstract category is intended to help investigators better design, develop, implement, and prepare simulation-based research projects. Abstracts submitted to this category should represent research studies and ideas that hold promise to answer important questions in the field of simulation, and should also be in the initial phases of development.
Authors of abstracts accepted into this track will be invited to present their work during a series of special sessions at IMSH 2018 designed to foster collaboration among researchers working in similar topic areas. Participants in this program will receive feedback from fellow research colleagues on important topics such as the relevance of the identified problem, components of study design, study aims and goals, resource allocation, methodological considerations, outcome measures, and assessment metrics. Special consideration will be given to those topics most relevant for eventual publication of the completed study.

Assessment Criteria:

Nature of the Research Question

- Is the research question novel or innovative?
- Does the topic build on the foundation of previous simulation research?
- What would the answers to this question contribute to the field?
- Does the proposed study offer a new or innovative solution to an existing problem in simulation?

2. Abstract - Research Study

Research Study abstracts answer important questions in healthcare simulation using rigorous methodology.

- Studies must include simulation as either the subject of the research, or as a research tool.
- Submitted studies may be complete or nearly complete regarding data collection or in a similar state for qualitative investigations. Submitters of abstracts for studies “in-progress” receiving ***conditional acceptance*** are required to submit final data no later than September 1, 2017. If data is incomplete as of September 1, 2017, the abstract may be re-categorized to the **Research Study Development & Presentation Program.**
- Projects not yet started or in the early stages of development should be submitted to the **Research Study Development & Presentation Program**.
- Descriptive statistics (and appropriately performed interim analyses) may be presented. Use of inferential statistics on incomplete data, however, is strongly discouraged.
- Quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods studies are welcomed.

- Theoretical frameworks used to inform the intervention, methodology, or assessment process should be included when appropriate.
- All studies must adhere to the requirements of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) / Human Subjects Board / Ethical Board of Review of the institution within which it was conducted.

Assessment Criteria:

Nature of the Research Question

- Is the question novel or innovative?
- Does it build on the foundation of previous simulation research?
- What would the answers to this question contribute to the field?
- What knowledge gap does the research fill?

Quality/Appropriateness of Research Methods

- How was it performed?
- For **quantitative** studies: What statistical methodologies were used? Do the results fully and accurately characterize the available data? Do the conclusions naturally follow from the results?
  For **qualitative** studies: Were theoretical frameworks appropriate? Was the sampling justified? Was the analytic approach described? Are the results clearly linked to the methods used? Does the conclusion naturally follow from the results?
- For **mixed methods** studies: In addition to the above considerations, were both approaches given appropriate weight in the results? Were they cohesively integrated in the results and conclusion?
- **What is the level of evidence**? (Although all levels of evidence will be considered, evidence of objective change in knowledge, skills or patient outcome is preferred)

3. Abstract – Innovation Project

Innovation abstracts report on the innovative use of simulation to address an important need or challenge. These can include both programmatic innovations and/or the development of new technologies.

- Projects should represent a new way to address an important problem in healthcare simulation, and may be simple or complex in nature.
- While evidence supporting the impact of the program is welcome, it is not an absolute requirement. “Lower” levels of evidence, such as participant self-report or confidence scoring may be both appropriate and sufficient in this context, though care should be taken to avoid overstating the inferences made from this data.
- Innovations reporting either positive or negative outcome data are welcome.

- The latest in novel interventions are encouraged in this category, including:
- New methods in educational content delivery
- Serious Games & Virtual Environments projects
- Low cost ideas
- Ideas for low resource environments
- Cutting edge, high tech ideas
- Technical modifications and work-arounds
- Developments in simulation technology (all types)

Assessment Criteria:

Need or Challenge Addressed

- What is the nature of the need or challenge the innovation was created to address?
- To what extent does this issue impact healthcare educators, providers, or administrators?
- A clear description of the problem or situation prompting the innovation must be included.

Innovative Nature of the Project

- Does the project use simulation in a new or innovative way?
- Does the project address a learner group, educational context, patient group, system, or quality improvement issue for which simulation has not yet been used?
- The abstract must describe the development process of the project, and/or its implementation.

Measures of Project Success

- How was the success of the innovation measured?
- Is the project cost-effective?
- Is the project reproducible at other centers?
- Is the project adaptable to other uses?
- Findings or outcomes of the project should be described in narrative form within the “Conclusions” section of the abstract.

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ABSTRACT REQUIRED COMPONENTS

Hypothesis/Research Question/Project Objective (1,000 characters, includes spaces – approximately 150 words)
Must contain the hypothesis and research question for the research study, or outline the problem being addressed through the innovation project. Provide background information on a current gap in knowledge or need in a specific area in healthcare simulation. State the importance of the study/project to the simulation healthcare community. Include citations to relevant literature if appropriate.

Methods (1,000 characters, includes spaces – approximately 150 words) Describe the study/project design, experimental method(s), design strategies, participants involved, apparatus and equipment used, procedures followed, and techniques employed. For Research Studies, include the independent and dependent variables where appropriate as well as modes of data analysis. Relevant theoretical frameworks should be included if applicable to the study topic.

Results (1,000 characters, includes spaces – approximately 150 words)
Describe what was learned from the study or project. For Research Studies, include a narrative summary of the findings, describing the analyzed data. Statistical analyses should be reported using accepted notations. Submitters of abstracts for studies "in-progress" should report results as "Anticipated", and, should they receive *conditional acceptance,* are required to submit final data no later than September 1, 2017. If data is incomplete as of September 1, 2017, the abstract may be re-categorized to the **Research Study Development & Presentation Program.** Innovation projects containing an assessment component should outline any evaluative reports or findings obtained. Note: you may NOT cut and paste a table into this text box.

Conclusions (1,000 characters, includes spaces – approximately 150 words)
Describe your conclusions, how the results do/do not support the research questions and/or project objectives, and the resulting implications for the healthcare simulation community. Again, do NOT use a table in this section. The conclusion should be a narrative summary of the results and findings.

References (no character limit)
Please follow the Reference Format Guidelines when entering your references. LIMIT: Five (5) references.

Disclosure of Relevant Financial Relationships
All contributors to your study or project must complete a Disclosure of Relevant Financial Relationships form before your entry will be considered. The "Disclosure" tab is found in your SSH Member or Non-member profile at ssih.org

CV Upload
The primary submitter for each study or project must upload a CV to the SSH Member or Non-member profile at www.ssih.org

Questions? IMSH@SSIH.org