

Newsletter - July 2026

President Message



Dear colleagues

Returning home from a truly inspiring SESAM 2026 Annual Meeting in Lyon, I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude and optimism. The energy of our community, the generosity in sharing ideas, and the quality of discussions across the meeting were remarkable. I would like to thank the Scientific Committee, the Annual Meeting Committee, sponsors, exhibitors, and all presenters and participants for making this such an unforgettable event.

This meeting also highlighted the exciting momentum building across our field. I am particularly encouraged by our collaboration with the World Health Organization and by the progress of global advocacy efforts, including the newly launched World Alliance for Healthcare Simulation, which reflects international cooperation at its best.

My connection with SESAM began in 2012, and over the years it has been a privilege to contribute to this vibrant community. More recently, as Chair of the Scientific Committee, I had the opportunity to work closely with colleagues to strengthen abstract review processes, support reviewers and session chairs, and contribute to the development of the scientific programmes for our Annual Meetings. This experience has given me a deep understanding of the society and its academic needs, which will shape how I collaborate, support, and lead as President.

A particular highlight of collaboration and co creation has been leading the development of the Global Consensus Statement on Simulation based Practice. This initiative, facilitated by

SESAM in partnership with the Society for Simulation in Healthcare, brought together 50 societies across 67 countries. Published in May 2024 across four journals, the statement reflects a shared vision for advancing high quality simulation and has already fostered renewed global collaboration.

A direct outcome of this work has been the launch of the World Alliance for Healthcare Simulation, an international, membership based alliance that brings together recognised simulation societies, associations, and networks worldwide. It aims to provide a collaborative and coordinating global platform, offering a collective advocacy voice for the simulation community while fully respecting the autonomy of its member organisations. Its work is guided by principles of shared stewardship, equity, scientific rigour, and global representation.

These experiences have deepened my understanding of both the strengths and the needs of our membership and have prepared me for the responsibility of serving as your President. I take on this role with a clear commitment to service. My focus will be on fostering high quality, evidence informed simulation and strengthening our inclusive and collaborative community.

In collaboration with the Scientific Committee, the Education Committee, and the SESAM Accreditation Group, I will support the development of practical and robust quality assurance tools for simulation practice. At a time of rapid innovation, including the emergence of artificial intelligence, I will also promote the development of guidance to ensure that new approaches are used in an ethical and meaningful way, supporting learning that brings real value to our colleagues, our learners, and our patients.

SESAM is strengthened by the diversity of its members. I am committed to nurturing an environment that actively engages and supports all voices within our community. I will also build on the success of the Global Consensus Statement by strengthening global partnerships, supporting knowledge exchange, and enabling collaboration across different settings, including those with limited resources.

My aim is to ensure that SESAM remains a leading voice in advancing simulation, with a clear focus on patient, system, and workforce safety. I will continue to listen to our members so that we remain responsive and relevant, and that we celebrate our professional and cultural diversity.

Thank you for your trust and for your continued commitment to our society.

With warm regards,
Cristina

Board Elections

Following the elections held at the Annual General Meeting on 17 June 2026, the following position was confirmed: **Secretary General** – Kirsty Freeman has been re-elected for a further two-year term. Kirsty continues to oversee SESAM's governance processes, board communications, and strategic coordination, and will serve until June 2028.

The Board thanks all members who participated in the AGM and the election process.



Joint SESAM WHO event

On 15 June, SESAM and the **World Health Organization** co-convened a landmark event at the WHO Academy in Lyon: ***"Simulation for Global Health: From Innovation to Implementation."***

For the first time, simulation experts, health policy decision-makers, patient organisations, international health bodies, clinical societies, financing partners, and industry representatives were brought together in a single room under the umbrella of this SESAM-WHO collaboration.

Their presence reflected a collective recognition that advancing simulation as a system-level priority requires coordinated commitment from all stakeholders. The discussions will feed into a joint SESAM-WHO report as a concrete advocacy instrument for the integration of simulation into health systems worldwide.



#SESAM2026 Lyon

As we look back on the 31st Annual Meeting of SESAM in Lyon, we are filled with gratitude. What made #SESAM2026 so special was not just the programme, it was the energy, passion, and collaborative spirit that each of you brought with you.

Together, we brought a community of more than 1,400 people from 64 countries together to share, challenge, learn, and grow. With 830 abstracts submitted, 108 future healthcare professionals in attendance, 61 exhibitors, and 600 hours of content, we stood united behind one single mission: to improve healthcare through simulation.

Your feedback matters

We invite you to help shape the future of SESAM. Your feedback directly informs how we develop the Scientific Programme and plan future meetings. The survey is completely anonymous and will remain open until 31 July 2026. If you have already responded, thank you. [Complete the SESAM 2026 Evaluation Survey](#)

Call for Nominations: Shape the future of SESAM

SESAM is seeking motivated members to take on leadership roles within our committees. This is your opportunity to contribute directly to the work that drives our society forward. We are looking for Committee Leads in the following areas:

- Annual Meeting Committee – Chair
- Financial Committee – 2 x Co-Chairs
- Information Technology Committee – Chair and Secretary
- Research Committee – Chair and Secretary

Who can apply? Current SESAM members in good standing who are collaborative, committed, and bring relevant experience.

What is the time commitment? Approximately 8–14 hours per month, with additional time around the Annual Meeting.

Full role descriptions, committee responsibilities, and application details are available on the SESAM website: [View Volunteer Opportunities](#)

How to apply Please submit a letter of motivation and your CV to executive.director@sesamsociety.org

Deadline: 7 August 2026. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a brief interview in August.

Save the Date – SESAM 2027

Riga, Latvia | 16–18 June 2027

The 32nd Annual Meeting of the Society for Simulation in Europe is heading to the Baltic. Riga – a UNESCO World Heritage city where medieval cobblestones meet the finest collection of Art Nouveau architecture in Europe – will welcome the global simulation community in June 2027.

Compact, walkable, and well connected by air to destinations across Europe, Riga is a city that reflects the spirit of next year's theme, "*Sustainable Simulation: From Vision to Practice*", a place where forward-thinking ideas feel right at home.

Registration and abstract submission details will be announced in the coming months.

Stay connected: sesamsociety.org | Follow us on social media @sesamsimulation

We look forward to seeing you in Riga <https://youtu.be/0SUxgJZurUk>



Communities of Practice: Updates

Simulation Research Network (SiReN)

SiReN brings together researchers, educators, practitioners, and policymakers to unify and strengthen simulation research across Europe. In 2026, SiReN defined its CoP structure in line with SESAM guidelines and looks forward to expanding its leadership and working groups from an already highly engaged community.

SEARCH COST Action – Granted and Ready to Launch

SiReN is delighted to announce that the SEARCH COST Action (Simulation Education and Research Collaborative in Healthcare) was granted in May 2026, following four years of dedicated work led by the SiReN Steering Committee. The journey began in September 2021, when the first proposal was drafted during a meeting in London.

SEARCH will officially launch in mid-October 2026 and aims to establish a pan-European network connecting academics, clinicians, industry, policymakers, scientific societies, and patient representatives to coordinate and strengthen healthcare simulation research. As COST Actions are networks of individuals rather than institutions, participation is open to anyone wishing to contribute through Working Groups and networking opportunities. Further details on joining will follow the first Management Committee meeting on 14 October 2026.

More information: <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA25145/>

SiReN at SESAM 2026 in Lyon

SiReN continued its popular ALERT (Advanced Look Exploratory Research Template) sessions, offering novice researchers the opportunity to share proposed studies or works in progress and receive structured mentoring. This year's presentations covered a range of quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods topics:

- Recording views of debriefings for faculty CPD – Owain Thomas
- Control appraisals and emotions in medical emergencies – Emma Philips
- High-immersive simulation and learner-tailored design – Martin Ernst & Benjamin Roszipal
- Identity-focused simulation for surgical training – Joanna Miles
- In situ simulation as a latent safety threat detection tool – Catia Costa
- Assessing quality of technical skill development in novice learners – Joseph McKay
- Cross-professional alignment in value perceptions – Andre Casado
- Improving OSCE assessment reliability using video-based review – Mariam Gogadze

Feedback indicated the ALERT sessions were a highlight for many attendees, with participants expressing gratitude for the meaningful mentoring that helped shape their future scholarship.

SiReN also endorsed several research-focused workshops within the SESAM 2026 programme, including sessions on mixed-methods design, turning practice into publication, co-creating a simulation research roadmap, peer review, and qualitative research in an AI-augmented era.

International Research Collaboration

SESAM is collaborating with the KidSIM Pediatric Simulation Centre (University of Calgary) and INSPIRE on a study examining current practices, gaps, and opportunities for integrating artificial intelligence in simulation research. During SiReN sessions at SESAM 2026, community members were invited to participate in the survey.

The survey is anonymous, takes approximately 10–15 minutes to complete, and has been approved by the University of Calgary Research Ethics Board (REB25-1575). We encourage all SiReN members to participate <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3RNLW2L>

All SESAM members interested in simulation research are warmly invited to join the community and contribute to its work. For more information, please contact siren.admin@sesamsociety.org

Virtual Simulated Patients and Artificial Intelligence (VSP-AI)

The Community of Practice on Virtual Simulated Patients and Artificial Intelligence held two events during the SESAM 2026 Annual Meeting in Lyon. An in-person meeting brought together 17 current and prospective members to discuss a practical conceptual framework for implementing virtual simulated patients (VSPs) in healthcare and education curricula, upcoming educational activities, and potential areas for scientific and practical research. Community members Fernando Salvetti, Maxim Gorshkov, and Frank Feick also delivered a 1.5-hour hands-on workshop, "How to Integrate Virtual Patients into the Curriculum: Step by Step," attended by approximately 20 participants. The session was well received, and the group has decided to offer it again as an online webinar.

Upcoming Webinar

Integration of Virtual Patients into the Curriculum: Step by Step

Thursday 15 October 2026, 15:00 CET

[Join via Zoom](#)

All SESAM members with an interest in virtual simulated patients and AI in education are warmly invited to join the community and participate in upcoming activities. For more information, please contact vsp.ai.cop.admin@sesamsociety.org.

Primary Healthcare Simulation Community of Practice (Primary Care Sim CoP)

The SESAM 2026 Annual Meeting in Lyon marked an important milestone for the Primary Care Sim CoP, which held its first official workshop bringing together experts from Slovenia, North Macedonia, Norway, India, Türkiye, and Croatia. Sixteen participants attended on site,

with a further 36 joining online via Zoom, reflecting the growing international interest in simulation-based education in primary healthcare.

The workshop programme covered the development, implementation, and future directions of simulation in primary care, with presentations on the scientific foundations of simulation-based education, integration into undergraduate curricula, the design of primary care simulation centres, and inspiring real-world success stories demonstrating the transfer of simulation-acquired competencies into clinical practice. The overarching message was clear: simulation-based education is no longer an added value but an essential component of safe primary healthcare.

The community is led by Chair Uroš Zafošnik (Slovenia), Co-Chair Liv Irene Ruud (Norway), and Secretary Biljana Tanevska (North Macedonia). Following the Annual Meeting, the leadership team developed an ambitious action plan, beginning with an international mapping initiative of simulation centres, institutions, and experts involved in primary care simulation.

Inaugural Webinar

Why Simulation-Based Training in Primary Healthcare? Evidence from the Literature and Success Stories

Wednesday 12 November 2026, 16:00-17:00 CET

[Join via Zoom](#)

All SESAM members interested in simulation-based education in primary healthcare are warmly invited to join the community and contribute to its continued development. For more information, please contact sesam@sesamsociety.org

Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Community of Practice (PH CoP)

The Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Community of Practice is a network of professionals dedicated to simulation in pre-hospital emergency care. Officially founded in 2012 at the SESAM Annual Meeting in Stavanger, the PH CoP has been involved in numerous projects to foster the use of simulation for education and research in this field.

At SESAM 2026 in Lyon, leadership group members Kenneth Krarup (Denmark) and G. Ulufer Sivrikaya (Türkiye) promoted the community's work during a dedicated 45-minute session within the congress programme.

The PH CoP's ongoing study, *Global Perspectives on Simulation in Prehospital Education*, approved by the Institutional Review Board of Viseu Dão-Lafões Local Health Unit (Portugal) and supported by SESAM, continues to collect responses. All SESAM members are encouraged to contribute: [Complete the survey](#)

The community's leadership group for the next two years is chaired by G. Ulufer Sivrikaya, alongside Vitor Almeida (Vice-Chair), Kenneth Krarup (Secretary), Guillaume Alinier (Scientific Adviser), and Thomas Marian (Development Adviser).

New members are warmly welcomed. For more information or to join the community, please contact prehospital.cop.admin@sesamsociety.org.

SESAM Accreditation

We are delighted to announce new international accreditation partnerships with **Simulation Canada** and **DSSH** (Danish Society for Simulation in Healthcare) – marking a significant step forward in extending SESAM's accreditation programme globally through collaborative models.

These partnerships are the first outcomes of a comprehensive review of our Accreditation programme, which has included a scientific study, SWOT analysis, interviews, and a consensus process, comparing current procedures against the needs of our partner societies.

With the strategic goal of promoting the culture of quality assurance in simulation, we have developed collaborative models that can be implemented by our affiliate societies, allowing adaptation to different contexts to increase access to accreditation – for example, by reducing language barriers and involving local assessors – all in compliance with SESAM accreditation standards.

We look forward to sharing further details as these exciting partnerships develop, and to the positive impact they will have on simulation-based practice worldwide.

Advances in Simulation

As reported at the General Meeting in Lyon, the trajectory of SESAM's journal *Advances in Simulation* remains strong: submissions have grown by 50% in the last year, and with an Impact Factor of 3.6, the journal is leading the field of healthcare simulation.

The quality of our journal depends on the expertise of this community, and we would encourage SESAM members to put themselves forward as a peer reviewer. Should you be interested in contributing as a peer reviewer, please complete the form at <https://tinyurl.com/asimreviewer> and don't forget to put "Advances in Simulation" as the journal name!

