



SOCIETY FOR
SIMULATION IN EUROPE

Newsletter - October 2026

President's Update

SESAM President, Cristina Diaz-Navarro



Since our last newsletter, a great deal of activity has been taking place behind the scenes to strengthen the governance and infrastructure that support SESAM. While much of this work is not always visible, it is essential to ensuring that our Society continues to grow, thrive, and serve our community effectively.

One important milestone that we are pleased to share is the development of our [SESAM Code of Conduct](#). This document outlines the expectations for everyone who represents or participates in SESAM activities. It reflects our collective values, supports a positive culture, and helps ensure that SESAM remains an inclusive, respectful, and forward-looking community for all.

I would like to congratulate the **Scientific Committee**, led by Michaela Kolbe, for their dedication, expertise, and thoughtful contributions in developing a new framework for abstract submissions for next year's Annual Meeting, SESAM 2027 in Riga. This refreshed approach will encourage authors to think differently about the breadth of themes and topics represented in their work, highlighting the many diverse contexts in which simulation supports healthcare practice. We are grateful for the committee's commitment to continuous improvement and innovation.

Our Research Community of Practice, **SiReN**, continues to demonstrate remarkable initiative and energy. I would like to congratulate the group for organising collaborative ALERT sessions at external events, including the ASPIH Annual Conference in Harrogate and the ICSC Conference in Prato. Their enthusiasm, generosity, and collaborative spirit are helping to strengthen connections across our simulation community and create valuable opportunities for learning and exchange.

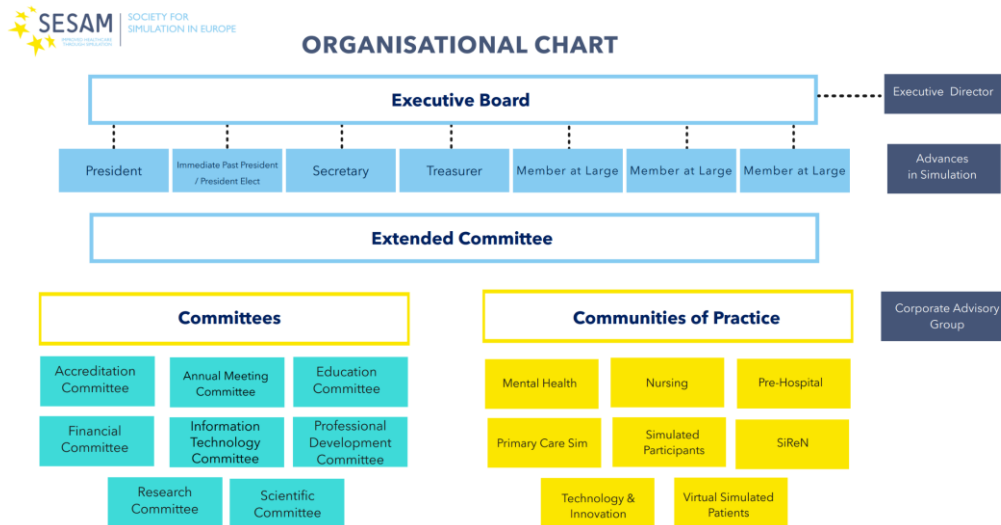
We have also been busy growing our leadership community. I would like to warmly welcome and congratulate all recently appointed Extended Leaders across our committees. Their involvement will help us broaden participation, share the SESAM way of working more widely, and build an even stronger culture of collaboration throughout the Society. We look forward to the ideas, perspectives, and contributions they will bring in the months ahead.

As the SESAM Board develops the Society's next strategic plan, we would value your views on how SESAM can best support you, your work, and the wider simulation community over the coming years. If you haven't already contributed, please take five minutes to share your thoughts [here](#) before 6 October.

Thank you to everyone who continues to volunteer their time, expertise, and passion in support of SESAM. Together, we are building a stronger Society and advancing simulation for the benefit of healthcare professionals, patients, and communities across Europe and beyond.

Leadership Appointments

Reflecting our growth and reach as a scientific society, we recently conducted a public call for newly created leadership positions, and we are delighted that the following members will join the Extended Committee.



The **Research Committee** will play a central role in strengthening SESAM's research governance, advancing evidence-based practice in healthcare simulation, and supporting SESAM's strategic priorities through structured research leadership. Its mission is to ensure SESAM's involvement with research activities is coherent, ethical, methodologically sound, and aligned with the needs of the Society and the wider simulation community.



"I'm delighted to take on the role of Chair of the new SESAM Research Committee. I'm particularly looking forward to working with the SESAM community to identify where the Research Committee can add the most value and support high-quality, impactful research."

Paul O'Connor
Chair, Research Committee



"I'm delighted to join the new SESAM Research Committee as Secretary. I'm particularly looking forward to connecting and working with colleagues across the SESAM community, understanding their research needs and priorities, and helping turn these into meaningful collaborative initiatives."

Anna Gonzalez,
Secretary, Research Committee

The **Financial Committee** supports the financial stewardship, sustainability, and long-term stability of the Society. Working closely with the Treasurer and Executive Board, the Committee provides oversight, guidance, and informed recommendations on SESAM's financial planning, reporting, and governance processes.



"I'm excited to join the SESAM Financial Committee and help ensure our resources are used wisely to advance simulation-based education across Europe. Supporting sustainable growth, transparent stewardship, and investments that strengthen our community and improve patient safety is work I'm proud to contribute to."

Tim Whitaker
Co-Chair, Financial Committee

The **Information Technology Committee** supports SESAM's digital infrastructure, online presence, and technology-enabled services. The group contributes to SESAM's long-term digital sustainability by maintaining core systems, advising on technology choices, and ensuring SESAM's digital platforms remain reliable, modern, user-friendly, and aligned with the Society's strategic priorities.

Nominations are still being accepted for the position of Chair. For more details, please contact executive.director@sesamsociety.org



"I'm delighted to be nominated as Secretary of the Information Technology Committee! I look forward to supporting the Committee, contributing to reliable, sustainable and user-friendly digital solutions that strengthen collaboration and support SESAM's members and wider community."

Inês Lourenço
Secretary, Information Technology Committee

The **Annual Meeting Committee** supports the planning, coordination, and delivery of SESAM's flagship event, ensuring that the SESAM Annual Meeting is well-organised, inclusive, engaging, and aligned with SESAM's mission and strategic priorities.



"I am excited to take on the role of Chair of the SESAM Annual Meeting Committee. SESAM is an important professional home for me, and I look forward to helping shape a welcoming, connected meeting that strengthens our community and supports the continued growth of the society."

Cynthia Mosher
Chair, Annual Meeting Committee



"SESAM has long been the community I have valued in the field of healthcare simulation so it's a privilege to help bring the Annual Meeting to life, keeping the many moving pieces joined up and supporting the whole team behind it. I'm looking forward to the work, and to making Riga a real success together."

Steph Ryng
Secretary, Annual Meeting Committee

Executive Director Update

SESAM Executive Director, Kirstin Aram



It is a pleasure to support the work the Board has been doing to strengthen SESAM for the years ahead. While some of these updates are behind the scenes, you will see the first practical benefits with the **SESAM 2027 Call for Abstracts**.

After working closely with the Scientific Committee and reviewing several platforms, SESAM has selected a new abstract management system. This platform is intended to make submitting and reviewing abstracts easier for everyone. When your invitation to submit arrives, you will need to **register with Oxford Abstracts as a new user**. Please use the email linked to your SESAM membership so that your account connects correctly. We will keep you posted on further developments.

Thank you for your continued support.

The first General Assembly of the World Alliance for Healthcare Simulation (WAHS) will take place on **Monday 19 October**.



WAHS is an open global alliance that brings together simulation organisations from all regions to share learning, strengthen collaboration, and support patient safety, healthcare quality, workforce development, and resilient health systems.

The General Assembly is the main decision-making body of WAHS. Each Member Organization, through its named Delegate, has one vote. WAHS is designed to be inclusive and respectful of different languages, regions, and contexts. To support participation across time zones, the inaugural General Assembly will take place as two virtual meetings on the same day.

For more details about the meeting, please contact secretariat@wahsimulation.org

To register for the WAHS General Assembly, please provide your society/ network details [here](#).

#SESAM2027 Riga

Join us for the **32nd Annual Meeting of SESAM** in the vibrant city of Riga.

Abstract Submissions are now open!



Discover new ideas, build meaningful connections, and help shape the future of healthcare simulation in Riga. With its striking Art Nouveau architecture, vibrant cultural life, and innovative spirit, Latvia's capital provides an inspiring setting for the 32nd Annual Meeting of SESAM. Join colleagues from across Europe and beyond for engaging discussions, practical insights, and opportunities to learn from diverse experiences. From established experts to those taking their first steps in simulation, everyone is invited to contribute, collaborate, and be part of this international community.

Riga offers a compelling setting for conversations about the future of healthcare simulation. Shaped by centuries of cultural exchange, the Latvian capital combines a remarkable architectural heritage with a dynamic academic and scientific environment. Its universities, hospitals, and healthcare professionals contribute to a growing culture of collaboration, education, and innovation across the Baltic region. Bringing the SESAM community to Riga creates an opportunity to draw on this energy, strengthen international partnerships, and explore how simulation can support safer care, better learning, and meaningful advances in healthcare.

SESAM 2027 Abstract submissions are now open!

SESAM's mission is to advance healthcare through simulation, and our Annual Meeting is central to that purpose. We invite our community to contribute work that strengthens simulation practice, expands knowledge, and supports SESAM's commitment to improving care through innovative, evidence-based approaches.

This year's programme is built around seven themes that reflect the breadth and shared priorities of our community:

- **How We Learn** – Learning, Debriefing and the Journey to Expertise
- **How We Work as Teams in Healthcare** – Conversations, Leadership and Team Performance
- **What's New** – Technology, Innovation and the Next Frontier
- **How Ideas Spread** – Turning Ideas into Change
- **How Simulation Improves Healthcare** – Safer Systems, Better Care
- **What Helps us Advance** - Scholarship, Discovery and New Perspectives
- **What Future we are Creating** - Equity, Sustainability and Global Futures

We are inviting researchers, practitioners, educators, and innovators to submit abstracts for:

- Research
- Innovation and Practice
- Workshops

Whether you are presenting original research, sharing practice insights, or proposing an interactive session, we want to hear from you.

Accepting Submissions until: **Monday 9 November 2026**

Submission Guidelines and Abstract Submissions: <https://sesamsociety.org/sesam-annual-meeting-2027/abstracts/>

For any questions or issues related to abstract submission, please do not hesitate to contact the team at abstracts@sesamsociety.org

We look forward to receiving your submissions and to welcoming you to Riga.



SESAM Mentorship Programme Continues to Grow

The SESAM Mentorship Programme brings members of our simulation community together for one-to-one relationships shaped by their goals, experience, and questions. In our last update, we shared how mentorship came to life at SESAM 2026 in Lyon. This month, we are pleased to welcome a workshop participant who has offered to share her experience as a mentor.

A New Mentorship Connection



Francesca Innocenti attended our SESAM Mentor CIRCLE workshop in Lyon and, through her participation, expressed interest in offering her knowledge and experience as a mentor. We are honoured and excited to welcome her to the SESAM Mentorship Programme.

Francesca is an emergency physician and director of a simulation centre that educates students and residents in technical and non-technical skills for emergency care and the management of critically ill patients. The centre also provides interprofessional education, trains hospital teams such as trauma and ECMO teams, and serves as a reference point for simulation train-the-trainer courses within the Tuscany Simulation Network.

Her research includes the transfer of learning from simulation to clinical practice and the development of AI-based interactive clinical scenarios. She sees mentoring as an opportunity to share her experience, reflect on her own work, build relationships for mutual support, and exchange ideas to improve simulation practice.

We also welcome Kirsty Freeman back to the Mentorship Programme as a Mentor. Kirsty is the Deputy Director and Academic Lead of the Rural Clinical School of Western Australia. Secretary General of SESAM and fellow of the Society for Simulation in Healthcare, she is a recognised world leader in health professions' education, with 20 years' experience in healthcare education, assessment and research. Kirsty has worked across a variety of healthcare disciplines including medicine, nursing, allied health and paramedicine, and have extensive experience in providing simulation-based experiences to undergraduate healthcare students, through to experienced healthcare providers. Born and raised in rural and remote regions of Western Australia, she is passionate about growing the healthcare workforce in rural and remote environments to ensure healthcare access for those communities. She has delivered presentations, workshops and been invited to speak at national and international conferences.



Growing the Programme

We look forward to learning what participants seek from mentorship and supporting connections that reflect their individual goals.

If you would like to participate as a mentor, a mentee, or both, please email professional.development@sesamsociety.org

Everyone is invited to join our Committees and Communities of Practice (CoPs) **upcoming webinars**.

Technology and Innovation

 Wednesday 7 October 2026

 14:30–15:30 CEST

 [Join via Teams](#)

Simulation technicians are the backbone of simulation-based education, yet their roles, titles and recognition still vary widely across institutions and countries. How can we define the role more clearly and recognise technicians as the indispensable stakeholders they are?

TechInn CoP welcomes Veronika Justrová, CHSOS, Deputy Director of SIMU, Faculty of Medicine, Masaryk University, Brno. Veronika co-developed the workshop Elevating the Profession of Healthcare Simulation Technicians at the SESAM Annual Meeting 2026, oversees nearly 500,000 contact hours of simulation-based education a year with a team of more than twenty technicians, and recently founded a community of simulation technicians across the Czech and Slovak region. Technicians, operations specialists, educators, innovators and managers are all warmly welcome.

Virtual Simulated Patients and Artificial Intelligence (VSP-AI)

Integration of Virtual Patients into the Curriculum: Step by Step

 Thursday 15 October 2026

 15:00 CEST

 [Join via Zoom](#)

Education Committee

Fundamentals of Debriefing and Finding your Model

Presenters: Christoffer Ericsson, Joanne Davies, Ulrich Strauch; hosted by: Ayham Al-Masri

 Wednesday 21 October 2026

 17:00 CEST

 [Register here for Zoom](#)

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

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

 Thursday 12 November 2026

 16:00–17:00 CET

 [Join via Zoom](#)

Advances in Simulation

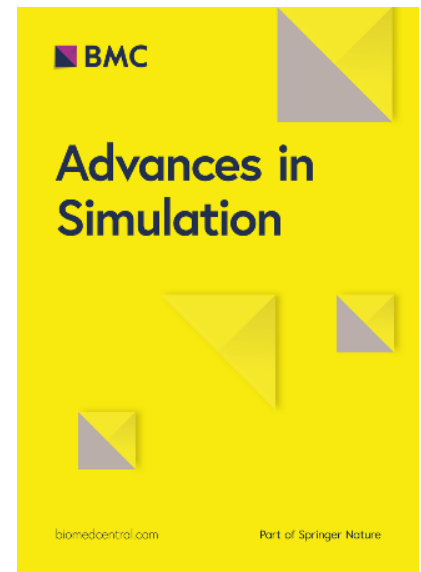
Submit an article for the **Advances in Simulation** special collections. SESAM members benefit from a discounted Article Processing Charge (APC).

Connecting Simulation with Healthcare Quality and Safety

What we are looking for: Work that moves beyond simulation as an educational activity and shows how it can contribute to quality improvement, safety, systems redesign, governance, and real-world impact. What have you learned and want to share? We would love to see contributions from colleagues working at the intersection of simulation and healthcare improvement.

Submission deadline: 12 November 2026

Details: <https://link.springer.com/collections/hffcgidhfh>



Immersive Technologies in Healthcare Simulation

What we are looking for: Submissions that explore the evolving role of immersive technologies (such as Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality/Mixed Reality) in advancing healthcare simulation. The integration of immersive technologies into healthcare simulation represents a paradigm shift in medical education and patient care. These tools enable realistic, simulated scenarios that facilitate experiential learning which allow healthcare professionals to hone their skills in a safe and controlled environment.

Submission deadline: 08 April 2027

Details: <https://link.springer.com/collections/iajaadhjhjc>

Affiliated Society Meetings



Heading to Harrogate this November for the **ASPiH conference**?

SESAM members benefit from 10% discount – simply enter the code **ASPSESAM26** [here](#)



SESAM was represented by Treasurer Pedro Cartaxo at the **4th Argentine Congress on Simulation, organised by the Sociedad Argentina de Simulación (SASIM)** in Buenos Aires 10-11 September. The congress brought together around 300 delegates from across Argentina and Latin America, including representatives from Paraguay, Mexico, Chile, and other South American countries. It was a fantastic opportunity to connect with the wider Latin American simulation community.

A highlight of the congress was the formal renewal of the SESAM-SASIM affiliation agreement, reaffirming both societies' commitment to continued collaboration and exchange. It was also wonderful to reconnect with many SESAM members and delegates who have attended previous SESAM Annual Meetings. The enthusiasm for SESAM2027 in Riga was clear, and we look forward to welcoming our Latin American colleagues there!

Thank you to Norma Raúl and the SASIM Executive Board for their warm hospitality and for the productive conversations that will further deepen the relationship between our two societies.



Contact us

SESAM is shaped by the energy, ideas, and commitment of our members.

If you would like to contribute in a new way, learn more about our Committees or Communities of Practice, or get involved in events and activities, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us at secretariat@sesamsociety.org