SESAM 2027 Abstract Submission Guidelines

Extended Submission Deadline: 23:59 Monday 16 November

Healthcare simulation is evolving rapidly. As a community, we are expanding our focus from educational excellence to healthcare impact, from innovation to implementation, and from promising ideas to sustainable change. SESAM welcomes submissions that advance learning, professional practice, healthcare systems and patient care through rigorous scholarship, meaningful innovation and real-world impact.

SESAM particularly welcomes submissions that:

1. **Create meaningful and sustainable impact** by improving learning, teams, healthcare organisations, healthcare systems, or patient care, and by addressing important healthcare challenges through implementation, adoption, scaling, or systems change.
2. **Advance innovation, scholarship, and collaboration** through emerging technologies, including AI and XR; multicentre, interdisciplinary, or cross-sector partnerships; and contributions to theory, methodology, measurement, or scholarly practice.
3. **Shape a more equitable future for healthcare and simulation** by strengthening equity, inclusion, accessibility, global collaboration, patient and community partnership, and by generating insights that others can adapt, adopt, and build upon.

We welcome submissions from all healthcare professions and disciplines (e.g. medicine, nursing, pharmacy, dentistry, veterinary medicine, mental health, public health, and others). Abstract submission is open to everyone, regardless of SESAM membership status.

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General Guidelines

Extended Submission Deadline: 23:59 Monday 16 November

We encourage submissions that **advance healthcare simulation** through scholarship, innovation, collaboration, and meaningful impact.

- Submit your abstract online at https://sesamsociety.org/sesam-annual-meeting-2027/abstracts/
- We will not consider abstracts sent by post or email.
- To start your submission, select the **Abstract Type**:
  - **Research**
  - **Innovation and Practice**
  - **Workshop**
- Each submitter may upload **up to two (2) abstracts in each Type**, with a maximum total of six (6) abstracts across all three Types. This limit refers to **first authors** only - you can still be included as a co-author in other work.
- You will be required to register with the abstract platform, Oxford Abstracts, as a new user. To ensure a streamlined registration experience, please use the email linked to your SESAM membership.
- Select the primary **Scientific Theme** that best matches your submission. Where work could sit within more than one theme, select the theme that reflects the primary contribution of the work
- The main abstract text is limited to **400 words**. This limit is enforced by the submission system. The word count excludes
  - title
  - author names and affiliations
  - reference list
  - caption of any figure or table
  - conflict of interest statement
  - AI statement
  - prior meeting presentation statement
- A reference list is required for every submission. Include a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 10 references, formatted in Vancouver style.
- Strong SESAM submissions are grounded in relevant literature, theory, evidence, or practice and clearly explain how they advance the field. Strong submissions move beyond describing what was done and instead explain: **What do we already know? What remains unknown? Why does this gap matter? How does this study / innovation / workshop advance the field?** Abstracts that clearly articulate a **Problem, Gap, and Contribution** are likely to be scored more highly.
- Submissions are accepted in **English.** We try to make the SESAM Annual Meeting accessible for everyone. The primary presentation language is English; we will however do our best to facilitate presentations in other languages (although we cannot guarantee this). You will be asked to indicate your preferred presentation language.
- Define all acronyms and abbreviations at first use. Trade names and references to commercial products should not appear in the title and should only be used in the abstract when necessary, but when used they must be clearly disclosed.

- All submissions must meet accepted **ethical standards** and comply with applicable regulations and institutional requirements. SESAM is committed to high-quality scientific and educational content that is free from commercial bias. All relevant **conflicts of interest and perceived conflicts of interest must be disclosed**.
- **Research** submissions must state whether ethical approval was obtained, naming the approving committee and the reference number, or state the basis on which approval was not required. Where patients, simulated participants, learners or institutions could be identified, confirm that appropriate consent or permission was obtained.
- **Research** and **Innovation and Practice** submissions must be original work that has not been previously published or presented at an international conference. Prior presentation at a local, regional or national meeting does not preclude submission, provided this is disclosed at the point of submission.
- The submitting author is responsible for obtaining approval from all co-authors before submission. Authors are responsible for the accuracy, clarity, and quality of their submissions. Abstracts should be submitted in their final form and may be published as submitted.
- **One figure or table** may be included. Technical specifications will be provided in the submission system.

What SESAM Values

Strong submissions:

- Build on existing knowledge.
- Address important problems, needs and questions and identify clear gaps.
- Advance understanding, practice, or healthcare.
- Generate insights that others can adapt, adopt, or build upon.

SESAM welcomes contributions from all healthcare professions, disciplines, specialties, and research traditions. To reflect the evolving landscape of simulation and healthcare, SESAM has organised submissions into **7 broad Scientific Themes**.

These themes are designed to encourage innovation, foster connections across disciplines, and create opportunities for dialogue around shared challenges and emerging ideas. **They are intended to guide, not limit, submissions.** Our goal is to create a scientific programme that is inclusive, forward-looking, and enriched by the diversity of our international community.

SESAM 2027 Scientific Themes:
Which Conversation is Your Work Contributing to?

SESAM seeks submissions that contribute to one of the following seven themes:

1. HOW WE LEARN
Learning, Debriefing and the Journey to Expertise

examples

Curriculum design • assessment (including high-stakes and licensure) • feedback & debriefing • deliberate practice • competency-based education • procedural & psychomotor skills training • simulated & standardised participant methodology • expertise • simulation to educate patients

2. HOW WE WORK AS TEAMS IN HEALTHCARE
Conversations, Leadership and Team Performance

examples

Communication skills • disclosure and apology • shared decision-making • leadership • teamwork • interprofessional collaboration • resilience • psychological safety • speaking up • wellbeing and burnout • professional ethics and moral distress

3. WHAT'S NEW
Technology, Innovation and the Next Frontier

examples

Artificial intelligence (AI) • extended reality (XR) • virtual simulation • learning analytics • gamification • automation • digital platforms • emerging simulation technologies • evaluation & validity of AI-enabled tools • algorithmic bias • data governance and ethics • human factors of AI

4. HOW IDEAS SPREAD
Turning Ideas into Change

examples

Implementation science • change management • programme adoption • scaling and spread • sustainability of innovations • simulation programme management • operations • quality assurance • centre accreditation • faculty development

(Select this theme if the primary contribution is knowledge about how innovations are adopted, spread and sustained.)

5. HOW SIMULATION IMPROVES HEALTHCARE
Safer Systems, Better Care

examples

Clinical performance • patient safety • systems improvement • organisational learning • workforce development • service redesign • emergency preparedness • systems resilience • measuring healthcare impact • in situ, mobile and unannounced simulation • simulation to treat patients

(Select this theme if the primary contribution is a demonstrated clinical, safety, workforce or system outcome.)

6. WHAT HELPS US ADVANCE
Scholarship, Discovery and New Perspectives

examples

Research methods • theory development • measurement science • qualitative & mixed-methods research • reviews • multicentre collaboration • interdisciplinary scholarship • novel scientific approaches • psychometrics & validity evidence • reporting standards & open science.

(Select this theme if the primary contribution is theoretical, methodological, or measurement-related rather than a substantial finding within another theme.)

7. WHAT FUTURE WE ARE CREATING
Equity, Sustainability and Global Futures

examples

Equity, diversity & inclusion • global health • planetary health • sustainability • cultural adaptation • low-resource simulation • social accountability • access to education & healthcare

(Select this theme if the primary contribution is theoretical, methodological, or measurement-related rather than a substantial finding within another theme.)

Submission Types

1. Research

Research abstracts showcase scholarship that expands what we know, questions what we assume, and illuminates what comes next for healthcare simulation, education, healthcare systems, and patient care. Preference will be given to completed studies. Studies in progress may be submitted if they include preliminary findings and sufficient data to support meaningful interpretation. Authors should clearly articulate their research question(s), hypothesis(es), and/or aims. Research abstracts should be structured as follows:

Structure of Research Abstracts	
1. Background, Literature and Study Purpose	*What's the problem, what do we already know, what remains unknown, and why does it matter?*
2. Methods	*How did you conduct the study?*
3. Results	*What did you find?*
4. Discussion and Implications	*What do the findings mean, and how do they advance the field?*
5. References (minimum 2, maximum 10; Vancouver style; not included in word count)	

2. Innovation & Practice

Innovation & Practice abstracts showcase ideas that move simulation from vision to practice. We welcome novel programmes, educational initiatives, technologies, implementation efforts, and practice-based solutions that strengthen learning, professional practice, healthcare systems, or patient care. SESAM values innovation that creates value beyond a single institution. While formal research is not required, strong submissions demonstrate impact, implementation, learning, or practical significance. The strongest abstracts explain not only what was done, but why it was needed, what it adds to existing practice, and what others can learn, adapt, or build upon. Purely descriptive accounts that are not grounded in theory and evidence and present no evaluation evidence are unlikely to be competitive.
Innovation & Practice abstracts should be structured as follows:

Structure of Innovation and Practice Abstracts	
1. Context, Need and Rationale	*What challenge, opportunity, gap, or unmet need inspired this work?*
2. Innovation or Approach	*What was created, implemented, or changed?*
3. Evaluation & Outcomes	*What happened as a result?*
4. Lessons Learned & Transferability	*What can others learn, adapt, or build upon?*
5. References (minimum 2, maximum 10; Vancouver style; not included in word count)	

3. Workshops

Workshops bring ideas to life through active participation, lively discussion, shared reflection, and practical application. They are designed to spark new thinking, challenge assumptions, and equip participants with approaches they can immediately put into practice. Workshops are 90 minutes in duration, and session timelines must be planned accordingly. Workshops must be free from commercial promotion; sessions built around a specific commercial product will not be accepted. Workshop abstracts should be structured as follows:

Structure of Workshop Abstracts	
1. Background, Rationale and Aims	*Why this workshop? What challenge, opportunity, or unmet need does it address?*
2. Intended Learning Outcomes	*What will participants learn, gain, or be able to do?*
3. Session Design and Timeline	*What will happen during the 90-minute workshop, and how will participants be engaged?*
4. Educational Methods	*Which educational methods will be used and why are these the right ones for achieving the intended outcomes?*
5. Expected Impact and Take-Home Messages	*What difference will participation in this workshop make?*
6. References (minimum 2, maximum 10; Vancouver style; not included in the word count)	
7. Target Audience	*Who is this workshop for?*
8. Level	*(Introductory / Intermediate / Advanced)*
9. Maximum Number of Participants	
10. Facilitators	*Who will facilitate the session, and what relevant experience do they bring?*
11. Equipment Required and Room Set-Up	*What is needed to create the best possible learning experience?*

What Makes a Strong SESAM Abstract?

At SESAM, we believe progress comes from building on what is known while exploring what is possible. We therefore encourage authors to engage with existing literature, theory, evidence, and practice; identify important questions, gaps, or opportunities; and demonstrate how their work contributes to the future of healthcare simulation. The five elements listed below are also the domains against which reviewers score each submission.

Strong Research Abstracts	Strong Innovation and Practice Abstracts	Strong Workshop Abstracts
Problem	Need	Need
Gap	Solution	Learning outcomes
Question	Evidence	Engagement
Rigour	Impact	Relevance
Contribution	Transferability	Take-home value

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

SESAM recognises that artificial intelligence (AI) tools are increasingly used to support scholarly work, innovation, education, communication, and writing. AI tools may be used to support the preparation of an abstract (e.g., writing assistance, language editing or translation, figure creation). Authors remain fully responsible for the accuracy of all content, the integrity of the work, the attribution of ideas and sources, as well as for compliance with ethical and professional standards and with copyright and intellectual property requirements.

You must disclose any use of AI tools when submitting your abstract, using the structured disclosure field in the submission system (tool, version, and purpose of use). AI tools cannot be listed as authors. Presenting AI-generated content as original work, or including references that have not been verified against the primary source, constitutes research misconduct and will result in rejection. Please also see the Author Checklist for Ethical Use of AI Generative Tools by Adam Cheng, Aaron Calhoun and Gabriel Reedy. (Cheng A, Calhoun A, Reedy G. Artificial intelligence-assisted academic writing: recommendations for ethical use. Advances in Simulation. 2025;10:22. doi:10.1186/s41077-025-00350-6)

All submissions are confidential and unpublished until the programme is released.

After Submission

Submissions can only be amended until the **Extended Submission Deadline of 23:59 Monday 16 November 2026**. No further amends will be permitted after such time (with the exception of including additional authors).

Every SESAM submission represents an investment of creativity, scholarship, time, and effort. To ensure a fair and constructive review process, all submissions will be reviewed independently by at least two reviewers under a double-anonymous process. Authors should therefore avoid identifying themselves, their institution or their city within the abstract text. Across all submission categories, they will consider the relevance of the work to the conference theme and SESAM Scientific Themes, its scholarly foundations, originality, clarity, potential impact, and value to the broader simulation community.

- For **Research** submissions, reviewers will consider how well the study identifies an important problem or gap, engages with existing literature and theory, articulates its research questions, hypotheses, or aims, and aligns methods with purpose. Reviewers will also assess the rigour of the study, the quality of the findings, and the contribution the work makes to simulation scholarship, healthcare education, healthcare systems, or patient care.
- For **Innovation and Practice** submissions, reviewers will consider the significance of the challenge addressed, the foundations of the innovation, the quality and originality of the approach, evidence of impact or implementation, lessons learned, and the potential for others to adapt, adopt, or build upon the work.
- For **Workshops**, reviewers will consider the strength of the educational rationale, the relevance of the identified need, the quality and feasibility of the proposed session,

alignment between aims, learning outcomes and methods, opportunities for participant engagement, and the practical value and transferability of the experience.

Presentation at SESAM

Accepted Research or Innovation & Practice abstract submissions may be selected for an oral presentation, short communication, e-poster, or workshop. Presentation formats will be determined by the Scientific Committee based on reviewer evaluations, programme balance, capacity, and the anticipated value for conference participants.

Notification and Next Steps

The submitting author will be notified of the Scientific Committee's decision by email in January 2027. Please ensure that you use a current email address and can receive communications from SESAM (abstracts@sesamsociety.org). For your accepted submission to be included in the programme, you will need to confirm your attendance. Accepted work must be presented by an author who has registered for the congress by the stated registration deadline, or the abstract will be removed from the official programme. Detailed guidance will be provided to all accepted presenters.

Withdrawal of Submissions

If you need to withdraw a submission, please notify abstracts@sesamsociety.org in writing before the withdrawal deadline. Failure to withdraw an accepted submission or to present accepted work may render the submitting author ineligible to submit an abstract to the following SESAM congress.

Questions?

We are here to help. If you have any questions regarding abstract submission, please contact abstracts@sesamsociety.org