SESAM
IMPROVED HEALTHCARE THROUGH SIMULATION
SOCIETY FOR SIMULATION IN EUROPE

Newsletter – November 2026

President's Update

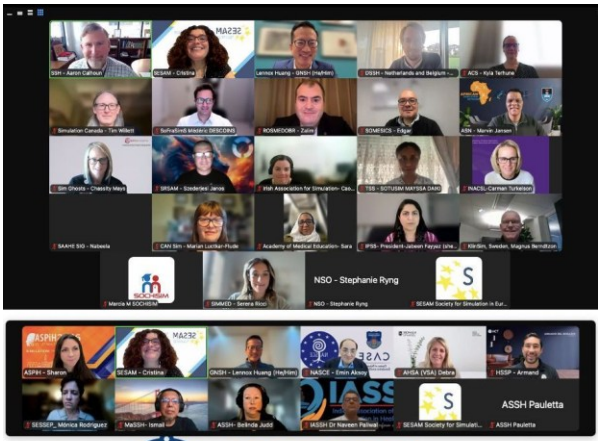


A new chapter for global collaboration in healthcare simulation

One of the greatest strengths of the healthcare simulation community is our willingness to come together in pursuit of a common purpose. Across countries, cultures, and healthcare systems, we share a belief that simulation can improve patient safety, strengthen healthcare teams, and contribute to better outcomes for the communities we serve.

This spirit was clear during the first General Assembly meetings of the **World Alliance for Healthcare Simulation (WAHS)**, held on 19 October 2026. WAHS is a newly established global alliance that brings together healthcare simulation societies and networks to advance collaboration, advocacy, knowledge sharing, and capacity building across regions and disciplines. The General Assembly was intentionally conducted in two separate sessions to accommodate different time zones and maximise global participation, reflecting the Alliance's commitment to inclusion and equitable representation from its very first meeting. Representatives from 34 organisations, alongside 16 observing organisations and institutions, joined from around the world to help shape this new platform for international collaboration.

The discussions reinforced a vision of WAHS as a collaborative alliance that respects the autonomy of existing organisations while creating new opportunities for collective advocacy, capacity building, research, and knowledge exchange. Participants highlighted priorities including equitable access to simulation, support for emerging simulation communities, ethical leadership, the responsible use of technology and artificial intelligence, multilingual engagement, and the development of resilient health systems.



WAHS
WORLD ALLIANCE FOR HEALTHCARE SIMULATION

As healthcare challenges become increasingly interconnected, our response must be equally collaborative. The creation of WAHS represents an important step towards a future where simulation societies work together not only to advance our profession, but also to amplify our collective impact on healthcare worldwide.

Cristina Diaz-Navarro

President, SESAM

#SESAM2027 Riga



Abstract Deadline Extended

The abstract submission deadline for SESAM 2027 has been extended to midnight (23:59 CET), Monday 16 November 2026

Whether you are still working on your abstract or have not yet started, there is now additional time to prepare and submit your work.

Already submitted? The submission platform will remain open until the new deadline, so if you wish to revisit, revise, or update your abstract, you are welcome to do so. Simply log back in to the platform and edit your existing submission at any time before midnight on 16 November.

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 Scientific 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**

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

Discover Riga: Your Destination for SESAM 2027

Join us for the **32nd Annual Meeting of SESAM** in the vibrant city of Riga. If you have not yet visited this remarkable city, you are in for a treat.

A European gem with a rich heritage, Riga's Historic Centre is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and home to one of the world's finest collections of Art Nouveau architecture. Around one third of the buildings in the city centre date from this extraordinary period. Beyond the Art Nouveau district, you will find a beautifully preserved medieval Old Town, vibrant markets, a thriving food and cultural scene, and a city that effortlessly blends centuries of history with a modern, forward-looking energy.

Latvia has been a member of both the European Union and NATO since 2004 and is part of the Schengen Area, making travel straightforward for many international visitors. Riga regularly hosts major international conferences, summits, and diplomatic forums, including the annual Riga Conference, one of Northern Europe's leading foreign policy and security events. It is a city with extensive experience in welcoming delegates and visitors from across the world.



We are also fortunate to be working closely with the team at **Riga Stradins University** Medical Education Technology Centre. As a highly international institution with extensive experience supporting students and visitors from many countries, the team are helping us organise a range of meeting activities and have generously offered their expertise in providing guidance on visa application processes for attendees who may require support.

Easy to reach from across Europe and beyond

Riga International Airport offers non-stop flights to over 80 destinations across more than 38 countries, with direct connections to major hubs such as London, Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Helsinki, Copenhagen, and Warsaw, getting to Riga is straightforward and affordable from virtually anywhere in Europe.

More than a conference, it’s an experience

Whether it is exploring the cobbled streets of the Old Town, sampling Latvian cuisine at the legendary Riga Central Market, enjoying world-class opera and ballet, or simply taking in the stunning architecture over a coffee on a boulevard terrace, Riga offers a conference experience that stays with you long after the final session.

We are genuinely excited about this destination, and we hope you are too. So start planning your trip, as we look forward to welcoming you to Riga.

SEARCH COST Action Launched

From a SiReN Initiative to a Pan-European Research Network

We are delighted to share that an initiative born within **SiReN**, SESAM's Research Community of Practice, has become a four-year European COST Action dedicated to advancing healthcare simulation research.

In October, the Simulation Education And Research Collaborative in Healthcare (SEARCH – COST Action CA25145) held its first Management Committee meeting in Brussels. It was a proud and emotional moment – and the culmination of more than four years of persistence, collaboration, and determination.

The idea for SEARCH emerged from discussions within the SiReN Steering Committee, recognising that healthcare simulation research across Europe remained fragmented across countries, professions, and institutions. The ambition was to strengthen the wider research community, but turning that vision into a funded reality was not straightforward. It took three unsuccessful applications before SEARCH was finally approved in 2026 through the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) programme.

None of this would have been possible without the sustained efforts of colleagues who contributed across successive applications, including Marta Ortega Vega, Michaela Kolbe, David Grant, Susan Eller, Walter Eppich, and many others. We are proud that the Action is now led by former SiReN leadership, Carla Sá-Couto as Chair and Gabriel Reedy as Vice-Chair.

Over the next four years (2026–2030), SEARCH will work to strengthen healthcare simulation research across Europe by fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, aligning research priorities, supporting knowledge exchange, and developing the next generation of simulation researchers. The Action will bring together researchers, educators, clinicians, and other stakeholders to build a sustainable and inclusive European research ecosystem.

For us, this is a powerful example of what can grow from a community of practice when people come together around a shared vision. We are grateful to SESAM and the SiReN community for providing the environment in which this idea could take root.

Interested in joining SEARCH? Researchers and professionals involved in healthcare simulation are encouraged to explore the Action's objectives, Working Groups, and opportunities for participation.

Learn more and get involved: https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA25145/

SESAM Community: November Webinars

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

Primary Care 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

Technology and Innovation

Vibe Coding for Simulation: Building Educational Applications with Conversational AI

🗓 Thursday 19 November 2026

🕓 14:00–15:30 CET

💻 Join via Teams

Generative AI now enables those with no programming background to turn an idea into a working application through natural-language dialogue, an approach known as vibe coding. In this interactive online workshop, Dr Federico Lorenzo Barra, an anaesthesiologist and intensivist at Maggiore della Carità University Hospital and SIMNOVA, Università del Piemonte Orientale, Novara, Italy, will guide participants in developing a simple educational application step by step. His team built the mechanical ventilation simulator Open Vent Sim entirely through conversational AI. Participants will also consider what the approach realistically offers simulation-based education and where its limitations lie. No prior coding experience is required.

Education Committee

Meta-debriefing: State of the Art in Developing Debriefers

Presented by Prash Kumar; facilitated by Christoffer Ericsson

🗓 *Tuesday 25 November 2026*

🕓 *17:00–18:00 CET*

💻 Register here for Zoom

Affiliated Society Meetings





SESAM Past President **Pier Luigi Ingrassia** represented SESAM at **SIMex 2026** in Mexico City, joining discussions on emerging technologies, translational simulation, and the future of our field through to 2050.
Events like SIMex remind us of the power of global collaboration. By sharing ideas, aligning goals, and working across borders, we can accelerate progress and continue to professionalize simulation worldwide. The conversation is already global. The action must be too. Thank you to **UNAM** and all the societies and colleagues who helped make these discussions so meaningful. Together, we are shaping the future of simulation.

President Cristina Diaz-Navarro was pleased to represent SESAM at the recent meeting of **NASCE**, providing an opportunity to strengthen relationships and explore future areas of collaboration.
Discussions focused on educational innovation, faculty development, and the growing role of simulation in healthcare training. The meeting also highlighted ongoing efforts to integrate simulation into specialist curricula, reflecting a shared commitment to advancing simulation-based practice across Europe and beyond.

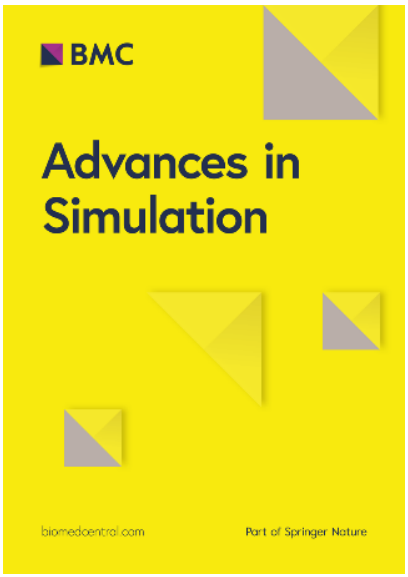


These conversations reinforce the value of engaging with affiliated societies and professional networks, creating opportunities to share expertise, expand participation, and strengthen our collective impact on healthcare education.
We look forward to continuing these discussions and exploring future opportunities to work together.



Member at Large **Aida Camps** represented SESAM at the **SPSim** Meeting in Braga. Her keynote provided an opportunity to share the collaborative work undertaken to review and enhance the SESAM Accreditation Programme, building on more than a decade of experience and contributions from the SESAM Accreditation Group (SAG). Conversations throughout the scientific meeting highlighted the value of collaboration between simulation societies in advancing accreditation standards, sharing expertise, and developing approaches that strengthen the field. By learning from one another's experiences and working towards common goals, societies and communities can drive continuous improvement and help build a stronger, more connected international simulation community.

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/iajaadhhjc

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