

# SSH DISCOVERY AWARD

## SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

### Award Objectives

The Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH) is proud to announce the inaugural award cycle for the **SSH Discovery Award**. As the Society has grown in its support of research in healthcare simulation, the importance of funding larger, longer-range projects led by experienced researchers in the field has been recognized. Beginning in 2025, The Society has added the SSH Discovery Award to its highly successful research award program.

### Funding Available

One research award of up to \$30,000 will be awarded.

### Research Priorities to Consider

Below are priorities identified by the Research Committee; however, the Committee does not restrict funding only to these priorities and will consider high-quality proposals that advance theoretical and applied knowledge in healthcare simulation research.

1. Studies that consider and investigate the balance between physical realism and resource utilization (cost, sustainability, and scalability) in simulation education.
2. Studies comparing factors related to high vs. low-fidelity simulations and simulators.
3. Studies investigating simulation-based factors (debriefing method, fidelity, learning modalities, etc.) that lead to optimization and acceleration of competency and learning in teams.
4. Studies investigating optimal dose, frequency and interval of simulation training sessions for competency-based training.
5. Studies comparing variables (faculty presence, feedback methods, etc.) that influence and inform the setting of standards and assessment methods used in competency-based training.
6. Studies that investigate the relationship of simulated participant methodology and emerging technologies, including hybrid strategies.
7. Studies measuring the impact (emotional, learning, retention, etc.) of in situ simulation events on participating professionals and/or care teams and patients not involved in the event.
8. Studies comparing Extended Reality (XR) based simulation with non-XR based simulation modalities, as it applies to training effectiveness/efficiency, learner outcomes, and mitigation of learner cybersickness.
9. Studies comparing the effectiveness of various debriefing techniques on learner competency, retention or other psychometric parameters.

## Overview of Application, Review, and Award Process

### Step 1: Letter of Intent

The Letter of Intent (LOI) is intended to succinctly describe your research project, including the research question, the need you intend to address through the research, and the overall design/methodology you plan to use to complete the project. All proposals must be entered into the SSH Content Database and will be reviewed by a panel.

The submission form link can be found on <https://ssih.org/ssh-discovery-award>

**Deadline for Letters of Intent (LOI): May 29, 2026**

### Step 2: Invitation to Submit a Full Proposal

A select number of LOIs will be invited to submit a full proposal into the SSH Content Database. If you are selected to submit a full proposal for further review and award consideration, the following deadline applies:

**Deadline for Invited Full Proposals: August 28, 2026**

### Step 3: Live video review

All applicants who are selected for the final stage of review will be required to participate in a 30-minute video interview with SSH Research Awards subcommittee members. The project Principal Investigator and Mentor must attend and give a short 10-minute presentation on the proposed project. A slide template will be provided. After the presentation, committee members may have further questions for applicants.

**Schedule for Live Video Reviews: Will be scheduled during the week of October 26, 2026 and October 30, 2026**

### Award Announcement and Funding

Awardess will be notified in the first week of November 2026 and announced at the **27<sup>th</sup> International Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare (IMSH 2027)**, which will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, from January 23 to 27, 2027. Funding will be received within the first quarter of 2027.

## Award Stipulations

### Applicant Eligibility

- Applicants must be prepared to list all sources of grant funding received in the past. Indicate on your CV if the funding sources were internal or external.
- Only one project submission will be accepted by each principal investigator.
- Co-investigators other than the project mentor are encouraged, though optional.
- Must demonstrate significant contributions to research through having at a minimum six peer-reviewed research publications as a primary (first or senior) author.

### **Publication and Presentation Requirements**

Manuscripts resulting from awarded studies must be submitted FIRST to *Simulation in Healthcare*, the official journal of the Society for Simulation in Healthcare. If a manuscript is not accepted to *Simulation in Healthcare* during the peer review process, the authors are free to submit it to other journals of their choice.

Any presentations resulting from the project must be submitted to either an SSH-sponsored educational meeting or be presented via an SSH-sponsored educational webinar.

### **Project Completion**

The project must be completed 24 months from the date of award of funds.

### **Project Reporting**

Principal Investigators receiving this award must submit a progress report at 12 months and a final report at the end of the 24 months.

### **Ethics Review (IRB Requirement) and Human Subject Protection**

All proposals submitted must include evidence of submission to the Institutional Review Board or Ethics Board at all institutions where the proposed work will take place, regardless of whether human subjects are used. Documentation of approval or exemption of the project by the IRB or Ethics Board is not required at the time of proposal application but will be required before the funding of the project. For human subjects' usage definition and guidelines, please refer to Part 2 of the NIH PHS398 instruction set (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.doc>).

### **Scope of Project**

- Innovative studies with strong potential for a positive impact on the simulation field are encouraged.
- Award funding may be used for PILOT projects to lead to more extensive investigations.
- A comprehensive range of sound empirical research methods (e.g., qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods) will be considered.

### **Budget Parameters**

The SSH Discovery Award is designed to be the only source of external funding for submitted projects. Projects for which non-SSH funds are being used in addition to external funding sources are not eligible.

Internal institutional support is allowed (e.g., departmental, institutional grant, in-kind funding) for all institutions listed and must be reported to SSH.

### **Exclusions to funding**

- Award funding is not intended for current or future academic research required for degree completion (e.g., master's level, PhD)
- Award funding is not intended for review projects (e.g., scoping reviews, meta-analysis, systematic reviews).
- Award funding is not intended for projects related to curricular development in simulation

## Letter of Intent (LOI) Requirements

### Background and Significance

Include a succinct overview of the field to be studied, including what is known about the topic and what remains to be explored. Describe how and why the proposed research will advance understanding in the field or bridge gaps in knowledge. Any supporting theoretical or conceptual frameworks should be included. (1,500 characters)

### Research Question and Hypothesis

Clearly describe the Research Question driving the project and the need for the project within the field of healthcare simulation. Projects that can be broadly applied to the field of simulation are encouraged.

List the goals and objectives of your study, (e.g., to test the hypothesis of your research questions). The hypothesis must be clearly stated for quantitative research. For qualitative research a hypothesis is not necessary, but guiding research questions should be stated instead. Specific aims should also be clearly stated. (1,000 characters)

### Research Methodology

Clearly describe the methodology planned for the project, including the research framework intended. It is often helpful to organize this section by listing each aim and the specific methods used to accomplish it. Other essential components include proposed inclusion and exclusion criteria for subjects, well-defined outcome measures, proposed data analysis methodology (e.g., statistical testing, anticipated sample size, thematic framework analysis), and the overall data collection and management strategy. Indicate the reporting the guideline you will use, if applicable. (1,500 characters)

### Project Timeline

Please provide a timeline of critical steps that demonstrates that you can feasibly complete the project within the 24-month award period. Gantt chart preferred. (1,000 characters)

### Budget

A high-level budget summary must be included, followed by a budget justification explaining how the award funds will specifically be used. The budget justification must demonstrate that adequate support and time will be dedicated toward the completion of the stated goals. Applicants are reminded that the Award will be in the amount of up to \$30,000. (1,000 characters)

#### **Award funding MAY BE used for the following:**

- Personnel costs - up to 80% (e.g. stipends for faculty/staff/graduate students/trainees, research assistants, project managers, statisticians, data analysts, subject matter experts, consultants; no single person can be more than 50% of the personnel costs).
- Simulation activity/material costs - up to 80% (e.g. VR headsets, task trainers, wearables, computers, software, printing, paper, cloud storage, questionnaires, licensed tools, simulated participants (SPs)).
- Study participant support - up to 20% (e.g., gift cards, food and beverage support, parking)

**Award funding MAY NOT BE used for:**

- Travel
- Conference and event fees
- Membership fees
- Professional development fees (e.g., tuition for educational programs or certification)
- Indirect costs (e.g., organizational and administrative support, equipment, rental of space, utilities).

**References**

Include up to ten supporting references using PubMed format

([http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/policy/cit\\_format.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/policy/cit_format.html)).

**Supporting Documents**

Upload the following documents in a pdf format:

- **CV:** A current CV, including all previous research grants received, whether internal or external and publication history, must be uploaded into the principal investigator's SSH profile. In addition, the project mentor must also complete an SSH profile and include a recent CV.
- **Institutional Review Board Approval Letter:** Note that in situations where IRB submission is preferred after the grant award notification, a final IRB approval letter must be submitted before funds can be disbursed.

**Full Proposal Submission Instructions**

Those who are invited to submit their full proposals will be sent an e-mail with further instructions for submission.