

# SSH EARLY CAREER MENTORED RESEARCH AWARD

## SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

### Award Objectives

Early career researchers developing methodologically sound simulation-based research projects using quantitative, qualitative, or hybrid, mixed-method approaches are sought for these awards. Studies that are both innovative and have strong potential for a positive impact on the simulation field are encouraged. The potential impact on the applicant's career is also considered.

### Funding Available

Two research awards of up to \$10,000 (each) 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 will be entered into the SSH Content Database and reviewed by a panel.*

The submission form link can be found on <https://ssih.org/early-career-mentored-research-award>

**Deadline for Letters of Intent (LOI): May 15, 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 03, 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 September 28, 2026 to October 02, 2026**

### Award Announcement and Funding

Awardees will be notified in mid-October 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. To receive recognition of the award, awardees are invited but not required to attend the Plenary Session. Funding will be received within the first quarter of 2027.

## Award Stipulations

### Period of Funding

Project must be completed within 18 months from the date of receipt of the funds.

### Publication 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.

### Applicant Eligibility

- The Principal Investigator may not have received more than \$10,000 USD in previous external research grant funding.
- The Principal Investigator may not have been a primary (first or senior) author on more than five peer-reviewed research publications.
- Only one project submission will be accepted from each Principal Investigator.
- Mentorship from an experienced researcher is required.
  - The mentor must be listed as a Project Investigator.
  - The mentor must be an experienced researcher with knowledge of the study area being undertaken.
- Co-investigators other than the project mentor are encouraged, though not required.

### 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*, authors can submit it to other journals.

Abstracts resulting from awarded projects are also expected to be presented at an SSH-sponsored educational meeting or webinar.

### Project Completion

The project must be completed 18 months from the date of award of funds.

### Project Reporting

Principal Investigators must submit a progress report at nine months and a final report at the end of the project.

### IRB Requirement and Human Subject Protection

All proposals must include evidence of submission to the Institutional Review Board or Ethics Board at all institutions where the proposed work will occur, 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 is required before funding is distributed. 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>).

## Letter of Intent (LOI) Components

### Research Question/Hypothesis

Describe the need for the project within the field of healthcare simulation and the research question driving the project, listing the goals and objectives of your study. For quantitative research, please be sure to state your hypothesis. (1,000 characters)

### Background and Significance

Your background should include a succinct overview of the field you are studying, including what is known about the topic and what remains to be explored. It should describe how and why the proposed research will advance understanding in the field or bridge gaps in knowledge. Please be sure to include any supporting theoretical or conceptual framework as dictated by the specific research areas. (1,000 characters)

### Project Timeline

Provide a timeline overview for project completion within the 18-month period. Gantt chart preferred. (1,000 characters)

### Methodology

This should include a brief outline of the methodology planned for the project, including the research framework, the proposed inclusion and exclusion criteria for subjects, well-defined outcome measures, the proposed statistical testing, anticipated size of the study, and the overall data collection and management strategy. If applicable, list each aim followed by the specific methodology you will use to accomplish that aim. (1,000 characters)

### Budget

A high-level budget summary must be included, followed by a detailed budget justification explaining how the award funds will be used. The justification must demonstrate that adequate support and time will be dedicated to completing the stated goals. Applicants are reminded that the grants will be awarded for at most \$10,000.

### 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)).

### Project Mentor

Include Name, Credentials, Employer, and Academic Affiliation.



### **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.