The SimHealth Organising Committee is pleased to announce the Call for Abstracts for the 12th Annual SimHealth Conference, held under the auspices of Simulation Australasia’s Health Specialist Community, the Australian Society for Simulation in Healthcare (ASSH).

Simulation Australasia, the national body for those working in simulation in Australasia, will once again bring together the SimHealth and SimTecT conferences under the name of the Australasian Simulation Congress (ASC) with opportunities for a number of joint sessions of mutual interest. In 2016, the International Simulation And Gaming Association (ISAGA) conference will be incorporated into the ASC.

The SimHealth 2016 stream within the Australasian Simulation Congress will explore the theme **LEADING FOR THE FUTURE**.

We invite you to reflect and share on how your simulation-based initiatives are impacting on how we operate as a health based simulation community. We would like to hear of your work in leading the way in which we think about and use simulation in improving patient safety, education and clinical outcomes.

In addition, this year we also want to be immersed in the work being undertaken focusing on sustainability of simulation-based education and research, certification and accreditation processes and quality initiatives as these will drive our profession moving forward.

Join us in September 2016 to share, inform, experience and explore simulation in research, education and technology innovation in health and other industries.

**SimHealth Abstract Submission Deadline:**

**Wednesday 30 March 2016**
Submissions
We invite delegates to submit online via the Call For Abstracts link on the conference paper portal (available on the Australasian Simulation Congress website from 1 December 2015) for inclusion in the program.

Guidelines for submission are available on the conference paper portal.

Submissions are invited for the following presentation formats:

- **Long Oral Presentations** in the themes of Completed Research (research with data), Educational Developments and Technology and Technical Innovation (presentations - 15 minutes + 5 minutes Q&A)
- **Short Oral Poster Presentations** in the themes of Completed Research (research with data), Educational Developments and Technology and Technical Innovation (posters - 5 minutes + 5 minutes discussion). Posters will be displayed electronically throughout the conference.
- **Works in Progress** new initiatives, research or programme evaluation proposals presented for feedback and discussion (presentations - 10 minutes + 20 minutes discussion)
- **In-Conference Workshops** (1.5 hours) – interactive courses to develop new knowledge and hands on practical skills

Submission Process
All submissions must be completed using the appropriate template to be provided on the Australasian Simulation Congress website.

For research, education and technology abstracts, authors must select preferred presentation format, i.e. long oral or poster.

Key Dates
Online submission portal opens – **Tuesday 1 December 2015**
Online submission closes – **Wednesday 30 March 2016**
Authors notified of submission outcome – **Late April 2016**

Eligibility
Submissions which have been previously presented at one other national and/or international meeting other than SimHealth may be accepted. If a submission has been presented previously, authors must disclose this.

Material previously published as an article in a peer-reviewed journal may not be submitted as an oral presentation or poster.

Review Process
Abstracts will undergo blinded peer review and acceptance will be based on merit judged against agreed criteria. Final presentation format (Long Oral Presentation, Short Oral Poster Presentation) will be determined by the Scientific Committee. Works in Progress and Workshops will undergo an open peer review process.

Awards
The objective of the Research Awards is to reward excellence in the areas listed in the conference sub-topics. All categories will be judged on the basis of the final written abstract. A monetary prize of $500 and subsidised registration at the Australasian Simulation Congress 2017 will be awarded for each of:

- **Best Completed Research Abstract**
- **Best Education Development Abstract**
- **Best Technology and Technical Innovation Abstract**
- **Best Poster Abstract**

Conflict of Interest
All submissions must include a Disclosure of Conflict of Interest (COI) statement: all authors must indicate that they do, or do not, have a financial interest/arrangement or direct affiliation with a corporate entity that has a direct interest in the subject matter of the abstract.
Call for Abstracts

Completed Research Abstracts
Submissions may include qualitative, quantitative and mixed-methods simulation-based research. Completed Research abstracts should be in either the categories of improving clinical outcomes and patient safety or measuring educational outcomes associated with simulated based education.

They may be up to 800 words, may include one table OR figure, and address the following:

• The research question or hypothesis should be clearly stated
• Methods to collect and analyse the data must be clearly described.
• Results must be reported
• Conclusion(s) must be supported by the data presented.

Format:
• Title (up to 20 words)
• Aim of the education program
• Methods adopted
• Evaluation data from the program
• Conclusions and recommendations for future use and development
• References (excluded from word count)

Educational Developments Abstracts
Educational Developments abstracts should describe the development of programs and curricula that address important needs. They may be up to 600 words, may include one table OR figure, and should address the following:

• Descriptions of simulation-based programs and/or curricula.
• Abstracts should emphasise information that could be used by practitioners.
• Should include data such as user or trainee evaluations/opinion surveys.

Technology and Technical Innovation Abstracts
Technology and Technical Innovation abstracts should describe the development of new technologies or applications of technologies in different ways. They may be up to 600 words, may include one table OR figure, and should address the following:

• The rationale for and description of the new technology
• Advantages over existing technology
• Application of the new technology and how it could be used by practitioners.
• Potential future developments of the technology
• Should include data such as user or trainee evaluations/opinion surveys.

Format:
• Title (up to 20 words)
• Background: (The rationale for the technological innovation i.e. what problem was it designed to address)
• Materials and methods (A description of the innovation and how it was used)
• Evaluation of the innovation
• Lessons learnt and recommendations for use
• References (excluded from word count)

Presentation Formats for Research, Education, and Technology and Technical Innovations
Selected abstracts will be invited as either Long Oral presentations or Short Oral Poster presentations presented in moderated in-conference sessions.
1. Short Oral Poster Presentations
Short Oral presentations with accompanying poster will be allocated to a chaired session during the conference. Authors will be given 5 minutes to present the content of their poster, and 5 minutes for discussion. Presenters may include up to five PowerPoint slides or a practical demonstration during their five-minute presentation. Authors must attend to present a short oral presentation based on their poster during the allocated time. Posters will be displayed for the duration of the conference in an electronic format and details of the required electronic formatting will be available from the Australasian Simulation Congress 2016 website.

The poster should include author and co-authors’ names, a short title and the name of the institution where the work was carried out. Works in Progress will be considered for poster presentation.

2. Long Oral Presentations
The number of long oral presentations is limited. Fifteen minutes will be allocated for long oral presentations with 5 minutes for questions.

Works in Progress (30 minutes)
Works in Progress should be new initiatives, research or program evaluation proposals presented for feedback and discussion. A limited number of spaces will be offered in this category. The purpose of these presentations is to generate discussion in order to refine or further develop the research question, methodology, analysis or interpretation of results. The session will be moderated by an established researcher. The abstract author will have 30 minutes to present and discuss the project.

Abstracts may be up to 600 words, may include one table OR figure and should address the following:

- A clear statement of the research question or educational problem
- Methodology or proposed methodology
- Results (if any available) and proposed analysis
- A clear statement of the problem, issues or questions that the author would like to address with the audience.

Format:
- Title
- Research Question
- Methodology (proposed)
- Analysis (proposed)
- Results (if any)
- Questions for the audience
- References

In-Conference Workshops (1.5 hours)
Interactive sessions where participants engage in hands-on learning to develop new knowledge and skills. Workshop proposals must address the following:

- Clearly stated learning outcomes
- Description of strategies and activities to engage participants in achieving the desired outcomes
- Plan for determining if the desired outcomes were achieved

Registration
Authors acknowledge that they may be required to present on any day of the conference. All presenting authors must register and pay for their attendance at the Australasian Simulation Congress.

For more information on the Call for Abstract process, or to discuss your submission, please visit the website or contact:
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Phone: +61 8 8125 2200
Email: conference@aomevents.com
Website: www.simulationcongress.com

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