JUSTIFICATION TOOLKIT

IMSH
Society for Simulation in Healthcare

SSH
Society for Simulation in Healthcare

IMSH 2027

In Concert

January 23–27, 2027
New Orleans, LA

MAKE THE CASE.
GET APPROVED. BE IN THE ROOM.

Presented by the Society for Simulation in Healthcare · imsh2027.org



IMSH 2027 · IN CONCERT

What's Inside

Everything you need to build the case, budget the trip, and get a yes — in one place.

Welcome to IMSH 2027 03

Why IMSH: The Case for Going 04

Thank You, Sponsors 05

Schedule at a Glance 06

Keynote Presenters 07

New Orleans: The Stage 08

Rate Guide 09

Budget Worksheet 10

Justification Letter — Clinical & Simulation Educators 11

Justification Letter — Simulation Operations Specialists 12

Justification Letter — Researchers & Scholars 13

Justification Letter — Program Directors & Department Leaders 14

What Is SSH? 15

Registration Categories & Next Steps 16

HOW TO USE THIS TOOLKIT

Find the justification letter that matches your role, customize the bracketed details, attach the budget worksheet, and send it to your supervisor before you register. Every figure in this toolkit is pulled directly from imsh2027.org.

03 · WELCOME

Welcome to IMSH 2027

Every discipline in healthcare simulation works in its own room most of the year — educators in one building, operations specialists in another, researchers publishing to a different audience than the one running the manikins. For five days every January, IMSH puts all of it in one room.

IMSH is a scientific conference built on peer-reviewed content, not vendor pitches. It brings together educators, researchers, operations specialists, clinicians, program directors, engineers, and students to explore what's next in simulation-based healthcare training — and to bring it home to the patients your program ultimately serves.

27	130+	5
Years running — IMSH has defined the field longer than many attendees have worked in it	Exhibiting companies showing what's next before it reaches your program	Days of workshops, plenaries, research, and hands-on learning

> *"IMSH is for you — regardless of career path or level." — Trenell Croskey, SSH Director of Continuing Education*

IMSH 2027 carries the theme **In Concert** — a nod to New Orleans, the city that invented jazz, and to the way the best simulation outcomes actually happen: not through any one discipline working alone, but through teams reading each other, adapting in real time, and elevating the whole. That's the case this toolkit is built to help you make.

THE SHORT VERSION

SSH is the world's leading interprofessional society advancing healthcare simulation — through credentialing, accreditation, education, research, and advocacy — in service of better patient outcomes.

04 · THE CASE

Why IMSH: The Case for Going

Here's the problem nobody puts in the budget request: simulation moves fast, and most programs experience that speed secondhand — through a vendor email, a colleague's LinkedIn post, a journal article that's already a year old by the time it's cited. By the time a new technique, standard, or piece of equipment reaches your program through those channels, the programs that were in the room already have a year's head start.

IMSH is the room. It's the one week a year where the standards get set, the research gets presented before it's published, and the people building the field's next equipment and curricula are standing at a booth ready to talk shop — not sell.

What that costs a program that skips it: a widening gap between what your team knows and what the field now expects. Recertification and CE credit that has to be found somewhere else, less efficiently. A professional network that stops growing. And, eventually, a program that looks a step behind the peers who kept showing up.

What attending actually delivers:

- **Reviewed by people who do the work.** Every session is vetted by working simulationists — practitioners running programs like yours — so what you sit in on is current to the job, not theoretical.
- **IPCE credit that counts.** Interprofessional Continuing Education credit supports recertification and compliance goals in one trip.
- **130+ companies in one hall.** See, touch, and compare the equipment and technology your next budget cycle depends on — before you commit to it sight-unseen.
- **Straight from the people who build it.** Talk directly with the engineers and product teams behind the equipment already in your lab — and catch new simulation products at the What's New in Sim showcase before they reach the public market.
- **A network Zoom can't build.** The relationships formed in a hallway between sessions are the ones that get you a fast answer when a program back home hits a wall in March.
- **No virtual option.** SSH doesn't stream IMSH. This is the one professional development trip that can't be replaced with a recording.

> *The career grows in the room — not in the recap email that goes around after.*

The letter templates in this toolkit are built to make that case in the language your specific supervisor needs to hear — whether the ask is about patient safety, compliance, research output, or the next budget cycle.

05 · GRATITUDE

Thank You, Sponsors

IMSH 2027 is made possible in part by the organizations investing directly in the field's future. Their support helps keep registration accessible and the program world-class in scope.

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Laerdal® helping save lives

SIMX

A NOTE ON THE EXHIBIT HALL

These same organizations — and 120+ more — staff the IMSH 2027 Expo Hall. For programs evaluating new equipment, technology, or training platforms, the hall functions as a single-trip, side-by-side comparison you can't replicate through vendor calls alone.

Schedule at a Glance

DAY	HIGHLIGHTS
Fri Jan 22	Exhibitor move-in. Registration, SSH Central & Presenter Center open (11 AM–4:30 PM). *The CBE Overture* consensus forum on simulation in CBE (fee required).
Sat Jan 23	CHSE & CHSOS Courses and SSH Accreditation: All Standards course (fee). CBE Overture continues. Immersive Courses at the Convention Center (fee). Convention Center Tour. Evening: President's Diamond Ball (fee) — black tie optional.
Sun Jan 24	**General Session opens.** #SimFit27 5K Fun Run/Walk/Roll (fee). Committee, Section, SIG & Affinity Group meetings. Educational Sessions. Opening Plenary — The Chad Epps Lecture, 11:00 AM. Grand Opening of the Exhibit Hall. Research oral presentations begin. Accreditation Celebration. "Happy Hour" in the Exhibit Hall.
Mon Jan 25	Plenary — The Lou Oberndorf Lecture on Innovation & Healthcare Simulation, 8:15 AM. Exhibit Hall, SimVentors Showcase, research orals & Poster Professor Rounds. Main Stage Presentation. Evening: Industry Night around New Orleans.
Tue Jan 26	**Exhibit Hall closes at 2:30 PM — last day.** Plenary — Michael S. Gordon Center Lecture on Medical Education, 8:15 AM. Research award winners, FIRES manuscripts & grant winners present. Main Stage Presentation. Evening: International Reception with Affiliation Signing.
Wed Jan 27	Sunrise Educational Sessions. SSH Presents the Closing Plenary Session, 8:15 AM. Final educational sessions through 12:30 PM. Conference closes.

GENERAL SESSION REGISTRATION INCLUDES

Daily plenary sessions, accredited educational content, program materials, Expo Hall access, coffee breaks, and three lunches.

Schedule subject to change. This overview reflects confirmed structure as of this toolkit's publication — visit imsh2027.org/program for the complete, current schedule.

07 · PLENARY LINEUP

Keynote Presenters

Four keynotes. Four days. See their welcome videos! **imsh2027.org/plenary-presenters**



SUNDAY, JAN 24 · RIAZ MEGHJI · THE OPENING PLENARY — THE CHAD EPPS LECTURE · 11:00 AM–12:15 PM

A human connection expert and author of *Every Conversation Counts: The 5 Habits of Human Connection That Build Extraordinary Relationships.* His insights have been featured in Fast Company, Harvard Business Review, and Financial Post. With 17 years of broadcasting experience — including CityTV's Breakfast Television, MTV Canada, and CTV News — Riaz brings a storyteller's instinct to exploring how authentic connection changes lives and organizations.



MONDAY, JAN 25 · JEREMY ANDERSON · THE LOU OBERNDORF LECTURE ON INNOVATION & HEALTHCARE SIMULATION · 8:15–9:30 AM

CEO of Next Level Speakers Academy and the Jeremy Anderson Group, Jeremy champions the principle of "Occupational Integrity" — performing at your highest level with honesty and accountability, regardless of recognition. Drawing on a career in corporate sales, marketing, and leadership, his message of resilience has reached organizations worldwide, from Fortune 500 audiences to TEDx stages.



TUESDAY, JAN 26 · JOSH LINKNER · MICHAEL S. GORDON CENTER LECTURE ON MEDICAL EDUCATION · 8:15–9:30 AM

A New York Times bestselling author, Josh has founded and led five tech companies that created over 10,000 jobs and sold for a combined $200M+. He's twice been named EY Entrepreneur of the Year. A lifelong jazz guitarist, Josh blends business, art, and science into a message about creative problem-solving and inventive thinking.



WEDNESDAY, JAN 27 · DIANA KANDER · SSH PRESENTS THE CLOSING PLENARY SESSION · 8:15–9:30 AM

A serial entrepreneur who entered the United States as a refugee from Ukraine at age 8, Diana had launched and sold millions of dollars in products and services by her early thirties. Today she's an innovation consultant and New York Times bestselling author whose books are taught in over 100 universities worldwide.

08 · THE SETTING

New Orleans: The Stage



The "In Concert" theme wasn't picked at random. New Orleans is the birthplace of jazz — an art form built on improvisation, collaboration, and the idea that the best outcomes happen when people perform together, reading each other in real time. That's also, not coincidentally, how the best simulation teams work.

Getting around is easy. The French Quarter is a 12-minute walk from the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. The Warehouse District — home to the National WWII Museum, rated the #1 museum in the U.S. — is steps away. The St. Charles streetcar runs 24 hours for $1.25 a ride.

The food alone is worth the trip report. Beignets at Café du Monde, a James Beard–nominated tasting menu at Cochon four minutes from the convention center, and a jazz brunch tradition that dates to 1893 at Commander's Palace.

What to expect in January. A mild 55°F average, light layers recommended, and one of the city's best months to be outdoors between sessions.

Evenings have their own program. Frenchmen Street runs six live jazz clubs across two blocks, most with no cover charge — a short walk or cab ride from the Quarter.

> *January in New Orleans isn't just a backdrop for IMSH 2027. It's the point.*

SEE IT FOR YOURSELF

Watch the official City of New Orleans welcome video at **imsh2027.org/new-orleans** for a closer look at what's waiting outside the convention center.

This section exists because a supervisor weighing a travel request should understand the full picture — a well-run conference in a city worth the trip strengthens attendance and morale. It's a genuine perk, not the reason to go.

09 · INVESTMENT

Rate Guide

General Session Registration includes: daily plenary sessions, accredited educational content, program materials, Expo Hall access, coffee breaks, and three lunches.

CATEGORY	REGULAR THROUGH 12/17/26	LATE / ONSITE FROM 12/18/26
SSH Member*	**$1,005**	$1,105
Non-Member	**$1,220**	$1,320
U.S. Government**	**$850**	$850
Undergraduate Student***	**$750**	$750

ADD-ON	COST
One-Day Pass	$475
Guest Pass (requires full registration)	$350
Preconference / Immersive Courses & Excursions	$299
CHSE Course	$425
CHSOS Course	$395
SSH Accreditation Application Readiness Course	$425 full day / $299 half day
IMSH 2027 CBE Forum (Competency-Based Education)	$150 (IMSH attendees) / $250 (non-attendees)
President's Diamond Ball	$125
#SimFit27 Fun Run/Walk	$35

* To receive the member rate, SSH membership must be valid through January 31, 2027. ** Requires a valid U.S. federal government or active-duty military email; does not apply to state/local government, state education institutions, or non-U.S. organizations. *** Current full-time undergraduate status documentation required at registration.

THE DEADLINE THAT MATTERS MOST

The current registration rate runs through December 17, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. ET. After that, the member rate rises from $1,005 to $1,105 — an increase of $100 — and the non-member rate rises from $1,220 to $1,320. Getting the letter signed before then is worth real budget dollars.

Budget Worksheet

EXPENSE	GUIDANCE	COST
IMSH 2027 Registration	General Session registration includes daily plenary sessions, accredited educational content, program materials, Expo Hall access, coffee breaks, and three lunches. See Rate Guide, p. 9 — current rate through Dec 17, 2026.	$
Preconference & Immersive Courses	Optional, separate registration ($150–$425 depending on course). Requires General Session registration to be eligible.	$
President's Diamond Ball	Optional ticketed evening event. $125/ticket.	$
CHSE / CHSOS Course	Eight-hour course including materials, beverage breaks, and lunch. CHSE $425 / CHSOS $395. Does not require General Session registration.	$
Travel (Flight / Ground)	Fly into Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY). Budget mileage, parking, and rideshare or shuttle to/from designated host hotels.	$
Hotel	Complimentary shuttle available from the New Orleans Marriott, Sheraton New Orleans, and Hilton New Orleans Riverside. Rates and booking link publish on imsh2027.org closer to the event — consider a room share to curb cost.	$
Food & Incidentals	Plan roughly $80/day in New Orleans, per the current GSA federal per diem meals & incidentals rate (FY2026; FY2027 rate not yet published). Three lunches are already included in General Session registration.	$

TOTAL

Subtotal per person: $ _____

Total number of employees attending: _____

Subtotal × Employees = IMSH 2027 Budget Request: $ _____

Hotel and airfare figures are not yet published for IMSH 2027 at the time of this toolkit's release. Check imsh2027.org/registration for current host hotel rates and booking links before finalizing this worksheet.

11 · SAMPLE LETTER

For Clinical & Simulation Educators

EDUCATOR & FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

Dear [Supervisor's Name],

I would like to attend IMSH 2027, January 23–27, at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. IMSH is hosted by the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH), the field's leading interprofessional society, and it is the largest peer-reviewed gathering of simulation educators in the world.

The techniques I use to train learners today were largely shaped by ideas that first surfaced at an IMSH session. Attending keeps our program's teaching methods current with where the evidence is heading — not a year behind it.

By attending, I will:

— Engage with peer-reviewed sessions on curriculum design, debriefing methods, and competency-based education, including the CBE Forum preconference.

— Earn Interprofessional Continuing Education (IPCE) credit toward my own faculty development and recertification.

— Compare notes with educators building similar programs at institutions across [X] countries represented at IMSH.

— Bring back at least [X] specific techniques or curriculum updates I can implement in our program within the first quarter.

Estimated costs are attached in the Budget Worksheet (p. 10). This is a direct investment in the quality of the education we deliver — and, ultimately, in patient outcomes downstream of the learners we train.

I'd appreciate your support in approving this request before pricing increases on December 17, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. ET.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
[Your Title]
[Your Institution]

12 · SAMPLE LETTER

For Simulation Operations Specialists

OPERATIONS & TECHNOLOGY

Dear [Supervisor's Name],

I would like to attend IMSH 2027, January 23–27, at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, hosted by the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH).

Our equipment and technology decisions are usually made from a spec sheet or a vendor call. IMSH's Expo Hall puts 130+ companies in one room, which means I can evaluate manikins, AV systems, and simulation technology hands-on and side-by-side before we commit budget to any of it.

By attending, I will:

— Compare equipment and technology from 130+ exhibiting companies in person — the closest thing to a live product bake-off our field has.

— Attend hands-on workshops and immersive courses relevant to day-to-day operations, technology integration, and lab management.

— Earn Interprofessional Continuing Education (IPCE) credit applicable toward CHSOS recertification.

— Return with vetted, first-hand comparisons to inform our next equipment or technology purchase — reducing the risk of a costly guess.

Estimated costs are attached in the Budget Worksheet (p. 10). This trip pays for itself the first time it prevents a mismatched equipment purchase.

I'd appreciate your support in approving this request before pricing increases on December 17, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. ET.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
[Your Title]
[Your Institution]

13 · SAMPLE LETTER

For Researchers & Scholars

RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP

Dear [Supervisor's Name],

I would like to attend IMSH 2027, January 23–27, at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, hosted by the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH). [If presenting: I have been accepted to present my research, "[Title]," during this year's research programming, spread across January 24–26.]

IMSH's SimVentors Showcase, oral research presentations, and poster sessions represent one of the field's most visible peer-reviewed research platforms — and one of the few opportunities each year to present alongside the global simulation research community in a single venue.

By attending, I will:

— Present my research to a peer-reviewed, interprofessional audience, building visibility for our program's work.

— Attend research oral presentations, Poster Professor Rounds, and the award, FIRES manuscript, and grant winner presentations to track emerging methodology and findings across the field before they reach publication.

— Explore the Future Innovators in Research, Education and Simulation (FIRES) manuscript pathway for potential publication in Simulation in Healthcare.

— Build collaborative relationships with researchers whose work complements ours — the kind of connection that leads to co-authored studies.

Estimated costs are attached in the Budget Worksheet (p. 10). Presenting and engaging at IMSH directly supports our research output and the visibility of our program in the field.

I'd appreciate your support in approving this request before pricing increases on December 17, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. ET.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
[Your Title]
[Your Institution]

14 · SAMPLE LETTER

For Program Directors & Department Leaders

LEADERSHIP & STRATEGY

Dear [Approving Authority],

I'm requesting approval to attend IMSH 2027, January 23–27, in New Orleans, along with [X] members of our team. IMSH is hosted by the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH) and is the largest interprofessional gathering in healthcare simulation — the benchmark event our peer programs use to set direction for the year ahead.

As the leader responsible for our program's direction, budget, and outcomes, my case for attending is strategic: this is where accreditation standards, technology direction, and staffing benchmarks for programs like ours get set — in the room, ahead of when they reach us secondhand.

By attending, our team will:

— Benchmark our program directly against 130+ vendor solutions and peer institutions in one trip, informing next year's capital and staffing plans.

— Track current SSH Accreditation standards firsthand, ahead of our next review cycle.

— Build the leadership and Board-level relationships that turn into fast answers and collaborative opportunities the rest of the year.

— Return with concrete, presentable recommendations for [initiative/budget cycle/strategic plan].

Estimated costs for our team are attached in the Budget Worksheet (p. 10). Given the size of the investment our program represents, staying current with the field's direction is not optional — it's how we protect that investment.

I'd appreciate your support in approving this request before pricing increases on December 17, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. ET.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
[Your Title]
[Your Institution]

What Is SSH?

SSH is the world's leading interprofessional society advancing healthcare simulation — through credentialing, accreditation, education, research, and advocacy — in service of better patient outcomes.

01	**Founded in 2004.** SSH grew from a small group of simulation educators into a 501(c)(3) nonprofit serving 5,400+ members across nearly 70 countries.
02	**IMSH — the flagship conference.** Now in its 27th year, IMSH brings thousands of professionals together annually to advance simulation-based healthcare training.
03	**Certification programs.** CHSE, CHSE-A, CHSOS, and CHSOS-A — NCCA-accredited individual credentials that validate advanced competency in simulation education and operations.
04	**SSH Accreditation.** A program-level designation for institutions and simulation centers meeting the highest benchmarks for quality.
05	**Research & publications.** SSH publishes *Simulation in Healthcare*, a peer-reviewed journal supporting practitioners and researchers advancing the field.
06	**Community & networking.** Sections, Special Interest Groups, and free Affinity Groups connect members year-round, not just at IMSH.
07	**Patient safety focus.** Every SSH program — credentialing, accreditation, education, and research — exists to improve clinical skill, communication, and safety at the bedside.



Society for Simulation in Healthcare
ssih.org · membership@ssih.org

16 · NEXT STEPS

Registration Categories & Next Steps

CATEGORY	WHAT IT INCLUDES
General Session	Full access: plenary sessions, accredited educational content, Expo Hall, program materials, coffee breaks, and 3 lunches. Required for preconference immersives, the President's Diamond Ball, and Guest Pass purchase.
One-Day Pass	Plenary session, accredited content, and Expo Hall access for a single day. Does not include eligibility for additional paid activities. Not available for Saturday, Jan 23.
Guest Pass	Plenary sessions, Expo Hall, breaks, and lunches only — available exclusively alongside a General Session registration.
Group & Institutional	For three or more attendees from one institution billed on a single invoice. Status for IMSH 2027 group registration should be confirmed directly with SSH (admin@ssih.org) at the time this letter is sent.

THREE STEPS TO ATTEND

1. Choose your letter template (pp. 11–14) and complete the Budget Worksheet (p. 10).

2. Send the letter to your supervisor for approval — before December 17, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. ET, to lock in the current rate.

3. Register at imsh2027.org/registration. SSH members must have membership valid through January 31, 2027 to receive the member rate.

Full Registration Terms & Conditions and the official Rate Guide are available as PDFs at imsh2027.org/registration. Program details, hotel information, and schedule are subject to change — always confirm current details at imsh2027.org before finalizing travel plans.

Questions about registration: admin@ssih.org.