

## Director's Corner: Sharing Stories of Health Care Simulation Innovation in 2024

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Let's talk about what makes the [Simulation Learning, Evaluation, Assessment, and Research Network \(SimLEARN\)](#) tick. Sure, we have many capabilities, from advanced testing and evaluation processes to substantiated education and implementation best practices. But do you know what truly fuels our mission to transform health care solutions for Veterans? It's our network. Last year, the SimLEARN Innovation Center for Education (SLICE) network grew by more than 300%, and the National Simulation Validation, Evaluation, and Testing Center, better known as

the National SimVET Center, expanded its capabilities; however, those highlights are just part of the story. We want our network to be even stronger, even more intertwined, and even more collaborative. This is where you come in.

You, too, have simulation stories waiting to be told. Share them, not just within the familiar walls of your VA facility but out in the world where they can inspire, educate, and resonate. We invite you to share your simulation in health care stories using the hashtags #SimLEARN and #HealthCareSimulation on Facebook, X (formerly known as Twitter), Instagram, or LinkedIn. How did you use simulation to improve a process? What simulation practices have been effective? Where do you want simulation to go in the future?

Here are a few highlights from SimLEARN and our portfolios that contribute to our growing narrative.

SimLEARN's collaborative network of health care professionals, subject matter experts, and industry leaders continued to blossom with two successful events to close the year. Both events resonated with the spirit of innovation that defines SimLEARN. In August, we gathered at the National SimVET Center, in Orlando, FL, for [the 2023 SLICE & Simulation Showcase](#). Discussions ranged from how to strengthen simulation education practices to how to overcome barriers in implementing simulation initiatives, emphasizing our core focus on enhancing outcomes for Veterans and staff.

Also, in September, SimLEARN held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the rebranding and relaunch of our simulation and training facility, [the National SimVET Center](#). The launch featured a presentation detailing the SimVET analysis process and explored cutting-edge technologies—from 3D printing to Holoportation. This event was a testament to how SimLEARN continuously adds services to improve Veteran care.

Within the SimVET portfolio, our team pioneered an initiative through close collaboration with the University of Central Florida and [Dr. Hologram](#). This initiative captures Veteran stories using volumetric holographic displays that allow viewers to see and hear three-dimensional live-beams or pre-recorded videos of Veterans telling their favorite stories about their time in service and in life. This initiative not only preserves the stories of our Nation's heroes but also involves professional writers from the My Life, My Story initiative, ensuring Veteran stories are told with the dignity they deserve.

The Resuscitation Education and Innovation (REdI) portfolio continues to be at the forefront of life-saving training. The team recently presented a workshop at the Cardiac Arrest Survival Summit in San Diego, California that walked participants through a strategic framework for mock code training. This will equip other health care organizations with the tools and resources needed to identify solutions for patient outcome improvement via ongoing training and data collection. Additionally, REdI has entered a partnership with [RelayResponse](#), which exemplifies our commitment to innovation, utilizing smart devices to collect real-time skill data from mock code events. This data will be leveraged to identify gaps and trends for training opportunities and process improvement.

From presenting at the VHA Innovation Experience (iEX) to the launching of a Mobile Introduction to Clinical Simulation (ICS) pilot, the Clinical Training and Engagement (CTE) portfolio is making waves in spreading the importance of clinical simulation. The Mobile ICS pilot is an in-person simulation training that aims to address the gap in qualified clinicians who can facilitate health care training using simulation. It not only widens our range of enterprise educational services, but it also reduces travel costs for learners and decreases clinicians' time away from patients, making education more accessible and efficient. Additionally, CTE collaborated with the Office of Discovery, Education, and Affiliate Networks (DEAN) for a diversity, equity, and inclusion lunch and learn, focusing on staff members who are foreign-born U.S. citizens and thanking them for their service to Veterans.

These are just a few of the accomplishments from SimLEARN's portfolios from last year. They are not just milestones; they are stories that need to be shared. I encourage each one of you to become a storyteller in your own right this year. Again, I encourage you to leverage social media platforms show the impact of simulation in your work using the hashtags #SimLEARN and #HealthCareSimulation. Social media platforms are not just for personal use; they can be powerful tools for professional storytelling. A good post can encourage discussions, partnerships, and new ideas as we work together to enhance and transform Veteran health care through simulation.