Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. We are so thankful for our Consortium and the members we serve each and every day. The year 2019 promises to be filled with more opportunities for collaboration, greater value for Accredited Education Institute (AEI) members, and relevant programming so you can build and maintain quality simulation programs. Here’s a look back at some of the highlights from 2018.
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Streamlined Process and Enhanced Reporting

In our continuous quest to improve the efficiency of the accreditation process, the AEI Program deployed a streamlined application and review process, which went into effect in 2015. Since then, all AEIs have been moved onto this new platform. Continuous monitoring was also instituted and is being rolled out in a stepwise fashion. All newly reaccredited programs are required to submit an Annual Compliance Report each year. These annual “check-ins” encourage the spirit of continuous improvement and demonstrate ongoing maintenance of the standards in between accreditation cycles. You may view data points from the first cohort later in this report.

It is expected that the enhanced process will result in more timely feedback to AEIs, provide them with increased opportunity to make necessary changes, as well as assist with benchmarking through the review of aggregate data.

ACS-AEI Educational Opportunities Continue to Grow

- **Registrants and 11 exhibiting companies** attended the Annual ACS Surgical Simulation Summit
- **284**

- **Participants** attended the first-ever Research Summit
- **62**

- **Manuscripts** were accepted for publication in *Surgery*
- **7**

- **Registrants, faculty, and staff and three exhibiting companies** attended the Postgraduate Course hosted by Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN
- **96**

- **Virtual Grand Rounds (VGR)** on insights on effective communication with patients and peers took place
- **1**

- **Podcasts** were produced on integrating simulation into lifelong practice and on a preview of the 2018 Annual ACS Surgical Simulation Summit
- **2**

- **Accreditation webinars and 9 AEI orientation webinars** were held
- **8**

- **Administration and Management Committee Hot Topic webinars** on 3D printing and resident wellness were held
- **2**

- **Administration and Management Committee newsletter** was distributed
- **1**

- **Articles of the Month** were selected by the Faculty Development Committee
- **8**
Through the commitment and dedication of ACS-AEI Surveyors and the Accreditation Review Committee, the following goals were achieved:

- **1** Newly accredited program
- **6** Newly accredited fellowship programs
- **41** Reaccreditation applications reviewed
- **2** Fellowship reaccreditation applications reviewed
- **21** Annual Maintenance Reports received
- **16** Total accredited fellowship programs
- **93** Total accredited programs

Above photo from the 2018 Annual ACS Surgical Simulation Summit
Winners of Posters of Distinction. Copyright ©2018. All rights reserved by AmCollSurgeonsIQ
Membership

AEI Centers

81 Comprehensive
12 Focused

United States

1 Phoenix, AZ
1 La Jolla, CA
3 Los Angeles, CA
1 Orange, CA
1 Pasadena, CA
1 Sacramento, CA
1 San Diego, CA
1 San Francisco, CA
1 Stanford, CA
1 Parker, CO
1 Hartford, CT
2 Washington, DC
1 Newark, DE
1 Celebration, FL
1 Tampa, FL
1 Atlanta, GA
1 Tripler Army Medical Center, HI
1 Iowa City, IA
3 Chicago, IL
1 Evanston, IL
1 Peoria, IL
2 New Orleans, LA
1 Shreveport, LA
4 Boston, MA
1 Burlington, MA
1 Springfield, MA
1 Bethesda, MD
1 Ann Arbor, MI
1 Detroit, MI
1 Royal Oak, MI
1 Southfield, MI
1 Minneapolis, MN
1 Rochester, MN
1 St. Louis, MO
1 Chapel Hill, NC
1 Charlotte, NC
1 Durham, NC
1 Morristown, NJ
1 Albuquerque, NM
3 New York, NY
1 Cleveland, OH
2 Columbus, OH
1 Toledo, OH
1 Oklahoma City, OK
2 Portland, OR
1 Allentown, PA
1 Hershey, PA
1 Johnstown, PA
3 Philadelphia, PA
1 Knoxville, TN
2 Dallas, TX
1 Galveston, TX
1 Houston, TX
1 JBFA-Ft Sam Houston, TX
1 Temple, TX
1 Salt Lake City, UT
1 Falls Church, VA
1 Norfolk, VA
1 Portsmouth, VA
1 Richmond, VA
1 Burlington, VT
1 Seattle, WA
1 Tacoma, WA
1 Madison, WI

Europe

1 Strasbourg, France
1 Athens, Greece
1 Pisa, Italy
1 Santander, Spain
1 Lund, Sweden
1 Stockholm, Sweden
1 London, United Kingdom

Canada

1 London, Ontario
1 Toronto, Ontario
1 Montreal, Quebec
1 Vancouver, British Columbia

South America

1 Buenos Aires, Argentina

Middle East

1 Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
The Fellowship Program of the Consortium of ACS-Accredited Education Institutes was established to improve the quality of surgical care by developing leaders and scholars in surgical education, simulation, and training. Only AEIs are eligible to apply for accreditation. We’d like to congratulate the centers below and their respective Fellowship Directors for meeting the accreditation standards and investing in the future of simulation-based surgical education and training.

**AEI-Accredited Fellowship Programs**

**CALIFORNIA**

Stanford Department of Surgery Education Institute
Stanford, CA
_Fellowship Director: James N. Lau, MD, FACS_

UC Davis Health, Center for Virtual Care
Sacramento, CA
_Fellowship Director: Edgardo S. Salcedo, MD, FACS_

**ILLINOIS**

Jump Trading Simulation & Education Center
Peoria, IL
_Fellowship Director: Richard H. Pearl, MD, FACS_

**MARYLAND**

National Capital Region Simulation Consortium
Bethesda, MD
_Fellowship Director: E. Matthew Ritter, MD, FACS_

**MASSACHUSETTS**

Lahey Center for Professional Development and Simulation
Burlington, MA
_Fellowship Director: Dmitry Nepomnayshy, MD, FACS_

MGH Learning Laboratory
Boston, MA
_Fellowship Co-Directors: Roy Phitayakorn, MD, MHPE, FACS, and Denise W. Gee, MD, FACS_

**MINNESOTA**

The University of Minnesota Simulation Peri-Operative Resource for Training And Learning (SimPORTAL)
Minneapolis, MN
_Fellowship Director: Robert Acton, MD, FACS_

Mayo Clinic Multidisciplinary Simulation Center
Rochester, MN
_Fellowship Director: David R. Farley, MD, FACS_

**MISSOURI**

Washington University Institute for Surgical Education (WISE)
St. Louis, MO
_Fellowship Director: Michael M. Awad, MD, FACS_

**OHIO**

Cleveland Clinic Simulation and Advanced Skills Center
Cleveland, OH
_Fellowship Director: Jeremy M. Lipman, MD, FACS_

OhioHealth Learning
Columbus, OH
_Fellowship Director: Edward Dominguez, MD, FACS_
AEI-Accredited Fellowship Programs (continued)

TENNESSEE
University of Tennessee Center for Advanced Medical Simulation (UTCAMS)
Knoxville, TN
Fellowship Co-Directors: Leonard H. Hines, MD, FACS, and Paul J. Huffstutter, MD, FACS

TEXAS
The Houston Methodist Institute for Technology, Innovation and Education (MITIE)
Houston, TX
Fellowship Director: Barbara L. Bass, MD, FACS

University of Texas Medical Branch Laboratory for Surgical Training, Assessment and Research (LSTAR)
Galveston, TX
Fellowship Director: Alexander Perez, MD, FACS

VERMONT
Clinical Simulation Laboratory at the University of Vermont
Burlington, VT
Fellowship Co-Directors: Patrick Forgione, MD, FACS, and Cate Nicholas MS, PA, EdD

WASHINGTON
WWAMI Institute for Simulation in Healthcare (WISH)
Seattle, WA
Fellowship Director: Robert M. Sweet, MD, FACS
Aggregate data from Annual Compliance Reports are used to contribute to this AEI Annual Report. The data points below were extrapolated from reports submitted by 21 AEIs. As more AEIs go through reaccreditation and are enrolled into the Continuous Monitoring Model of accreditation, the number of respondents will increase. By 2020, all AEIs will be submitting Annual Compliance Reports, and their data will be included in this Annual Report. Only select data points from the reports are shared.

**Makeup of Respondents (21)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Affiliation</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Teaching Center</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical School</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government or Military Center</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care Delivery System</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Hospital</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other, Medical Service Administration</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*QUICK INSIGHT:* Almost half (43%) of this AEI cohort consider their primary affiliation to be with an academic teaching center.
Learners and Educational Programs

AEIs report the number of participants at each activity, referred to as learner encounters. The data represent aggregate numbers of interactions and not the number of unique participants. Participants attending multiple activities are counted multiple times.

**Learner Encounters**

- Nurses: 40,000
- Medical Students: 29,000
- Surgical Residents: 19,000
- Other: 18,000
- Allied Health Professionals: 17,000
- Residents from Other Disciplines: 15,000
- Physicians from Other Disciplines: 10,000
- Surgeons in Practice: 8,000

**Course Instructional Hours**

Average: 2,369 | Total: 47,371

**QUICK INSIGHT:** In this cohort, 156,000 learning encounters took place over 47,371 hours. Nurses accounted for the biggest learner group, with medical students taking second place.

**Types of Training Offered**

- Team Training Skills
- Affective Skills
- Psychomotor Skills
- Cognitive Skills

**Other Accreditations Held**

- ACGME
- LCME
- ACCME
- Other

**QUICK INSIGHT:** ACGME is the most common accreditation held among this AEI cohort.
Curriculum

Comprehensive AEIs must demonstrate innovation by developing original curricula. Curricula used by Comprehensive and Focused AEIs, whether adopted or original, must have been developed using the steps of curriculum development as outlined in the Standards. For the purpose of this report, both Comprehensive and Focused AEIs were asked to respond to the questions below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Curricula Created</th>
<th>Number of Curricula Adopted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Original Curricula)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>12 AEIs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 AEIs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4 AEIs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2 AEIs</td>
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<td>1 AEI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>1 AEI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10+</td>
<td>1 AEI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of New Curricula Implemented</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New (Original/Adopted)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>10+</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

QUICK INSIGHT: At 21 AEIs, more than 49 curricula were created, and 16 curricula were adopted. Nearly all (91%) were implemented.
Faculty Development

AEIs must ensure that faculty have subject matter expertise, are effective educators, and have access to training to implement the education programs. This includes offering faculty development programs, “train the trainer” instruction and courses.

Percentage of Faculty that Participated in Faculty Development Activities:

- 75–100%
- 50–74%
- 25–49%
- 1–24%
- 0%

Where Faculty Development Was Delivered:

- Internally within the parent organization
- Internally within the AEI
- Outside of the AEI

How Faculty Development Was Delivered:

- Observation of faculty with post activity feedback
- One-on-one training
- Formal “train the trainer” course
- Other

QUICK INSIGHT: Among this cohort, faculty development was most commonly delivered through a formal course offered at or outside of the AEI.
Simulators

AEIs must have devices, and the support to use them effectively, to meet learner and curricular needs.

**Types of Simulators**

- **Cardiovascular Simulators**: 13 AEIs
- **General Surgery Simulators**: 20 AEIs
- **Human Patient Simulators**: 20 AEIs
- **Obstetrics/Gynecology Simulators**: 18 AEIs
- **Orthopaedics/Neurosurgery Simulators**: 10 AEIs
- **Standardized Patients**: 14 AEIs
- **Task Trainer Simulators**: 21 AEIs

**Did You Acquire Any New Simulators?**

- **Yes**: 13 AEIs
- **No**: 20 AEIs
Space

Comprehensive AEIs are required to have no less than 1,200 square feet of contiguous space dedicated to education and training, and under the direct control of the Institute. Focused AEIs are required to have 800 dedicated square feet. The figures below do not include the additional 4,000 square feet of additional space required for Comprehensive AEIs to have to meet the needs of learners and administrative support staff.

**Amount of Contiguous Square Footage under the Direct Control of the AEI:**

- Maximum: 225,127 square feet
- Average: 25,892 square feet
- Median: 10,717 square feet
- Minimum: 990 square feet
- Total: 517,832 square feet

Finances

AEIs provide budgetary information to confirm resources to support the Institute are available.

**Amount of Income**

- Maximum: $18,269,098
- Average: $2,675,286
- Median: $1,602,635
- Minimum: $1,092,935

**Other Sources of Funding**

- Maximum: $4,266,794
- Average: $984,080
- Median: $315,906
- Minimum: $315,906

**Expenses**

- Maximum: $20,681,217
- Average: $2,535,164
- Median: $1,581,867
- Minimum: $1,581,867

**QUICK INSIGHT:** The average AEI in this cohort was 25,892 square feet and functioned on $2,675,286 a year, not including any other sources of funding. Expenses were nearly equivalent to income.
Research, Scholarly Activities, and Collaboration

Comprehensive AEIs are required to pursue research and other scholarly activities. While not a requirement for Focused AEIs, they were also asked to disclose their activities for the purpose of this report.

Number of Research or Scholarly Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>AEIs</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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</tr>
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<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10+</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Types of Research or Scholarly Activities

- **10 AEIs**
  - Conducted long-term follow-up of learners and assessment of outcomes

- **15 AEIs**
  - Developed and evaluated technologies for education, training, and assessment

- **9 AEIs**
  - Developed and validated performance standards that provide practical and useful methods to assess competency

- **17 AEIs**
  - Developed innovative methodologies for education, training, and assessment

- **17 AEIs**
  - Disseminated the results of scholarly activities through presentations

- **11 AEIs**
  - Disseminated the results of scholarly activities through publications

- **9 AEIs**
  - Measured impacts on quality and outcomes
Collaborative Projects with Other AEIs

**QUICK INSIGHT:** This cohort of 21 AEIs was involved in 124 research/scholarly activities. They collaborated with other AEIs on 36 different projects.

- Facilitated/hosted a conference or workshop: 12 AEIs
- Conducted a multi-institutional research study: 7 AEIs
- Created curricula: 5 AEIs
- Participated in validation studies: 3 AEIs
- Created a simulator: 2 AEIs
- Others: 7 AEIs
Updates from Our Standing Committees

Accreditation Review Committee
The Accreditation Review Committee reviewed its first two sets of Annual Compliance Reports in 2018. The process has been successful thus far and has resulted in timely feedback to the AEIs about how well they are maintaining the standards and, in some cases, what improvements are recommended. The committee has taken steps to establish protocols for virtual site visits and plans to give AEIs the option of a virtual or an in-person site visit at year five of the accreditation term. A small subcommittee was also established to revise the accreditation Standards and Criteria, which will be underway in early 2019.

Administration and Management Committee
The ACS-AEI Administration and Management (A&M) Committee had a productive year, undertaking well-received standing committee projects and planning new ones. The A&M Annual Summit Concurrent Track Sessions, a platform currently celebrating its fifth year, offer AEI members the opportunity to network more among the administration and management group within the Annual Meeting structure. This Committee received ACS-AEI Leadership approval to expand its Annual Track session into an Annual Track program block for administration and management professionals, technicians, educators, and so on to run concurrently with the traditional program for surgeons during the 2019 Annual Summit.

The A&M Committee newsletter is a biannual bulletin that supports AEI administrators and others who are involved or interested in the management of a simulation center. It disseminates valuable news and information about A&M know-how, practices, and events. Each issue includes interesting and useful articles and features, including promotion of future ACS-AEI meetings, recaps of recent ACS-AEI meetings, other (future) relevant events to attend, DIY recipe for a simulation model, meet a Fellow/member, Hot Topics webinar schedule, tips and tricks for an administrator, website and social media directory of ACS-AEIs, and more.

In its eighth year, the popular Hot Topics series offers, free of charge, webinars on ideas, tools, and strategies from other AEIs on a range of topics of interest to our members who are running simulation centers.

Best Practice Committee
The committee compiled best practices from the Accreditation Review Committee meetings and submitted a manuscript for consideration entitled, “Simulation Center Best Practices: A Review of the ACS-Accredited Education Institutes’ Best Practices, 2011 to Present,” which was recently published in Surgery. The Committee also co-sponsored a workshop at the Annual Surgical Simulation Summit meeting and worked with several other committees on individual projects.

Curriculum Committee
For 2018, the Curriculum Committee made the decision to concentrate its efforts on two projects to meet their deliverable pilot dates of March 2019 for both. This past year has been an exciting and rewarding one for this committee while meeting these deadlines.
The ACS-AEI Communication Skills Curriculum Based on Milestone-Based OSCEs project is a series of OSCE-like simulation modules to teach residents communication skills using the milestone competencies as its framework. The Curriculum Committee created three working groups that were the focus of the curriculum modules at this time: hand-offs, breaking bad news, and informed consent. All working groups have developed their frameworks from a template, meeting the project’s fall deadline to report back on their module content under works.

The second project is the Online Curriculum Development Tool project. This online tool would enable the user to create a curriculum for a simulation-based course in a systematic, evidence-based, seven-step approach. The tool will integrate the criteria of educational effectiveness of simulation education into the steps of curriculum development. Examples from the database of best practices by AEIs compiled during accreditation cycles will be made available for the tool users. The first phase of this project is now complete and in compliance with the project action plan. The project is currently in phase II, where review and internal validation of the content are ongoing.

**Faculty Development Committee**

The Faculty Development Committee continued to demonstrate its commitment to disseminating resources to enable educators in the surgical profession to promote their capabilities and enhance their competencies.

The committee completed its second year of the Article of the Month Series, which through collaboration with the other ACS-AEI committees, utilized the results of the 2015 Consortium needs assessment study conducted by the Faculty Development Committee to address where the gaps are in the development of faculty simulation-based education and translational research skills. These series were well-received based on readership surveys. In addition, a couple of AEIs were starting learning communities as a result of the series and an ACS VGR was conducted for this topic. In the fall of 2018, the committee also approved an ACS-sponsored faculty development booklet project, which will present the recent trends in simulation-based education and tips for application in the different AEIs. This training manual will enable AEIs to put this content into practice through addressing the current approaches, challenges, and tips for implementation.

The 2018 joint committee workshop, “How to Overcome Challenges and Break Barriers to Faculty Development,” was conducted with the Best Practices Committee. This committee was moving forward with writing a white paper over this workshop topic in conjunction with the Best Practices Committee and the interested workshop attendees.

**Fellowship Review Committee**

2018 was a big year for the Fellowship Review Committee. A total of six applications for accreditation were reviewed and recommended to the Accreditation Review Committee, resulting in 16 AEIs with accredited Fellowship Programs. In addition to reviewing fellowship applications for initial and reaccreditation, the Fellowship Committee rolled out a portfolio template designed by Mitchell Goldman, MD, FACS, Immediate Past-Chair of the Fellowship Committee, and research technician Taylor Harris from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. The template serves two purposes: It tracks the progress of fellows in a standardized and
individualized manner, and it will be used by programs to demonstrate compliance with the Fellowship Standards at Criteria upon reaccreditation. During the March 2018 Annual ACS Surgical Simulation Summit, 10 Fellows presented their research projects.

**International Committee**

The International Committee, in its second year of formation, actively pursued an agenda to build collaboration within the international community. The international centers from Greece and Sweden completed their collaborative research efforts outside of the U.S. and will report their findings during the March 2019 International Committee meeting. The countries of Canada and Sweden were represented during the Poster Rounds session at the 2018 Annual Summit. Canada also had representation during the new 2018 Innovative Techniques session at the Annual Summit.

**Program Committee**

The chair of the 2018 Program Committee was Dmitry Nepomnayshy MD, FACS, and the Vice-Chair was Robert Rush, MD, FACS, who assumed the duties of Program Chair for the upcoming 2019 meeting. The 11th Annual Meeting of the Consortium of ACS-Accredited Education Institutes was held March 16–17, 2018, at the Swissôtel in Chicago, IL. The committee recommended changing the name of the meeting to draw more individuals into our community from other parts of the simulation spectrum, including non-accredited AEIs, engineers, young researchers, and others who have an interest in simulation for surgical-based education and training.

The meeting was well attended with our largest number of participants in the 11 years the meeting has been offered. We received 60 abstract submissions, which was the most the program has ever received. The 2018 Program Committee approved 12 podium presentations to highlight more original research taking place in simulation-based surgical education and the implementation of innovative simulation-based surgical education methods. There were also 20 multi-institutional studies accepted, giving greater validity to the research being done in the simulation field.

Other notable changes implemented by the Program Committee included the “Innovative Techniques in Simulation-Based Education” session that showcased innovative simulators, curricula, and technology for teaching and assessment that might not have significant outcomes data at this time. The other session, “AEI Fellows: Future Leaders in Simulation-Based Education,” gave Fellows at ACS-accredited simulation fellowship programs the opportunity to present their in-progress research. It was exciting to see young researchers present their work and their cutting-edge research.

Audio recordings and select presentations from the 2018 meeting can be found at facs.org/aei.

**Research and Development Committee**

In March 2018, the Research Summit was held as a pre-conference event to the ACS Surgical Simulation Summit. Co-Chaired by Ajit K. Sachdeva, MD, FACS, FRCSC, FSACME, and Dimitrios Stefanidis, MD, PhD, FACS, FASMBS, the Research Summit drew 68 participants, all focused on identifying avenues for research within three key areas: the impact of simulation training on patient safety and outcomes, value proposition of simulation
(ROI), and using simulation for credentialing surgeons and surgical teams. Research and Development Committee members consulted on the selection of these topics, identified as being significant to the future of research and innovation in surgical simulation.

During the ACS Surgical Simulation Summit, the Research and Development Committee sponsored the workshop “What Reviewers Look for When You Submit a Paper.” Led by Dr. Stefanidis, Co-Chair of the Committee, the workshop detailed the steps involved in the editorial review process, identified elements of manuscripts effective in achieving publication, and shared strategies to avoid common mistakes. Carla Pugh, MD, PhD, and Melissa Gesbeck, PhD, provided guidelines to successfully address reviewer comments. The workshop provided attendees the opportunity to interact through small-group exercises, and discussed issues related to authorship and ethical considerations.

The Research and Development Committee released a podcast highlighting the ACS Surgical Simulation Summit and had a recording booth set up at the conference. An informative podcast discussing various areas impacted by surgical simulation with Dr. James Peake was released in late May of 2018. Podcasts are moderated by Mark Aeder, MD, FACS, Vice-Chair of the Committee, and cover a variety of topics related to surgical education and training.

At present, workgroups that were assembled and engaged in the Research Summit are entering the second phase of their projects, which is creation of proposals. The proposals are based on the three key areas investigated at the Summit: value proposition of simulation (ROI), impact of simulation training on patient safety, and simulation use for credentialing surgeons and teams.

To promote partnership and understanding through technology within the AEI Consortium, the Research and Development Committee trialed an approach to evaluate potential multi-center research studies utilizing webinars. A successful pilot allowed AEI faculty to present and receive feedback on research concepts, and to communicate opportunities for multi-center studies. At the committee meeting held during the Postgraduate Course at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, Dr. Stefanidis presented the utilization of this concept on a broader scale within the AEI Consortium. After an initial screening process of a given project, a webinar would be scheduled and made available to Consortium members. Following each webinar, feedback would be collected from attendees and distributed to the presenters, along with contact information for AEIs interested in collaborating. As a supplement to this approach, Dr. Aeder’s podcasts will continue to be used as a platform to promote collaboration and distill information within the AEI community.

As announced at the Council of Chairs dinner at the Postgraduate Course, both approaches will be administered under a collaborative platform to be initiated by Kathleen Johnson, EdM.

Preparation for the 2019 ACS Surgical Simulation Summit is underway. The Research and Development Committee will sponsor the workshop, “How Do I Find Funding for My Educational Research?” Led by committee member Mika Sinanan, MD, PhD, FACS, the workshop will detail the experiences of various AEIs, and will be complemented with perspectives from granting agencies.

The Research and Development Committee welcomes and thanks the following Committee Members for their participation and newly assigned roles: Mark Aeder, MD, FACS, as Co-Chair (joining current Co-Chair, Dimitrios Stefanidis, MD, PhD, FACS, FASMBS).
Sharon Muret-Wagstaff, PhD, MPA, will now act as Vice-Chair. The Research and Development Committee also welcomes its newest member, Ganesh Sankaranarayanan, PhD.

**Technologies and Simulation Committee**

During the March ACS Surgical Simulation Summit, the Technologies and Simulation Committee sponsored the workshop “Virtual Reality-Based Curriculum for Medical Education and Simulation.” Led by Thenkurussi (Kesh) Kesavadas, PhD, and David M. Hananel, BS, BA, Vice-Chair of the Committee, the workshop provided participants with an overview of virtual reality technology and the ways in which it differs from manikin-based simulation. Dr. Kesavadas and Mr. Hananel discussed the evolution of virtual reality, validation considerations, and how to begin applying the technology to one’s home institution and programs. Workshop participants were given the opportunity to practice their airway management skills with a hands-on trial of the University of Illinois at Peoria’s intubation simulator. The opportunity to interact with a virtual reality simulator attracted many conference attendees, with approximately 70 registering for the workshop.

“An Approach to Value-Based Simulator Selection: The Creation and Evaluation of the Simulator Value Index Tool” was published in *Surgery* in April. The Simulator Value Index (SVI) tool is a practical tool founded on scientific evidence from the medical simulation community and designed to facilitate decision-making during the simulator evaluation and purchase process via a standardized mechanism.1 Led by Deborah M. Rooney, PhD (Co-Chair), acknowledgment and thanks are expressed to AEI committee members who helped in tool and manuscript development: David M. Hananel, BS, BA (Vice-Chair), and James M. Cook, MD (Member, Best Practices Committee). The SVI tool can be found online at [facs.org/education/accreditation/aei/resources](http://facs.org/education/accreditation/aei/resources).

At the request of the Administration and Management Committee, the Technologies and Simulation Committee sponsored a Hot Topics webinar focused on 3D printing in August. The webinar was led by Committee Member Troy E. Reihsen, director of the Artificial Tissue Lab at the Center for Research in Education and Simulation Technologies (CREST), University of Washington. Mr. Reihsen introduced attendees to the processes and needs involved with starting and maintaining a 3D printing program. Content focused specifically on novel methods and processes for source data collection, such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and computed tomography (CT) digital imaging and communications in medicine (DICOM) datasets, segmentation, preparation of files for printing, types of printers and materials, and post-processing. Approximately 50 groups and individuals registered to participate in the webinar.

The committee welcomed two new members this year: Brad Gable, MD, MS, FACEP, and Austin Beason, MD. Dr. Gable is an emergency medicine physician and the system medical director of OhioHealth Simulation in Columbus, OH. Dr. Beason is an orthopaedic surgery resident at Southern Illinois University and completed a research internship in simulation and surgical education. He also developed an interdisciplinary team-training simulation-based curriculum for surgical residents, operating room staff, and anesthesia providers. The Membership looks forward to the unique perspectives that Dr. Gable and Dr. Beason bring to the committee.

**REFERENCE**
ACS-AEI Postgraduate Course: Novice to Expert: Let’s Get It Done

The September 14–15, 2018, Annual Postgraduate Course was a huge success. We would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere gratitude to David Farley, MD, FACS, and his team at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, for delivering exceptionally motivating and timely content, inspiring all of us to break down silos and collaborate in the interests of our patients and our educational system. A recap of the meeting, along with presentations, can be found at facs.org/aei.

“Phenomenal conference. One of the best I have attended! Informative, innovative, and educational from start to finish. Each talk was captivating and thought provoking. I came away with pages of ideas from this conference. It is rare I write anything down of significance at conferences, though found myself writing down ideas constantly listening to the great talks at this summit.”
THANK YOU

The work of the American College of Surgeons Accredited Education Institutes Consortium is largely done voluntarily through its committee structure. We express our deep gratitude to our volunteers for all that you do for the program. Your enthusiasm, dedication, and tireless efforts strengthen the AEI community and further the field of simulation-based surgical education and training.

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Our mission to enhance patient safety extends well beyond accreditation and requires a collaborative effort with other content experts. In addition to our volunteers, we would like to acknowledge our colleagues from the Division of Education who help support several of our committees and enhance our educational offerings.

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