



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS • DIVISION OF EDUCATION®
ACCREDITED EDUCATION INSTITUTES
ENHANCING PATIENT SAFETY THROUGH SIMULATION

ACS-AEI Standing Committees



100+years

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

*Inspiring Quality:
Highest Standards, Better Outcomes*

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS
DIVISION OF EDUCATION

Blended Surgical Education and Training for Life®

The **AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS**

ACCREDITED EDUCATION INSTITUTES (ACS-AEI)

educate and train practicing surgeons, surgical residents, medical students, and members of the surgical team using simulation-based education.

Since its launch in 2005, the ACS-AEI Program has set the standards for how surgical education and training should be offered at accredited education institutes.

Our goal is to promote patient safety through the use of simulation, develop new education and technologies, identify best practices, and promote research and collaboration among our institutes. We also evaluate the impact of education through long-term follow-up of learners and analyze how to best incorporate aspects of surgical research into surgical education.



AEI accreditation provides the ability to:

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- › **Collaborate, network, and share best practices** with centers that are at the forefront of simulation-based surgical education and training
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- › **Follow our road map** to building a strong surgical simulation program based on national standards and accreditation requirements
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- › **Engage** in a standardized, rigorous review process
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- › **Access** exclusive educational resources
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- › **Pursue** collaborative research and development
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- › **Present** original research with the potential to be published in a prestigious, peer-reviewed journal
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- › **Be recognized** as one of more than 94 AEI-accredited simulation programs throughout the world where residents and other members of the surgical team go for their training
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- › **Train future leaders** in simulation by accrediting your fellowship program
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The work of the **AEI Consortium** is done voluntarily through its Committee structure. The primary goal of the Committees is to facilitate the value of being in the Consortium through products and services.



Accreditation Review Committee

The Accreditation Review Committee (ARC) consists of Fellows of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) who have expertise in various aspects of simulation-based surgical education and training. In addition, many direct their own institutes. The ARC makes its decisions and evaluations based on data gathered by surveyors during a site visit of the Accredited Education Institute (AEI). This information determines the level of compliance a participating AEI achieves for each criterion of the accreditation standards. This Committee is responsible for conducting reviews and making accreditation and reaccreditation decisions twice yearly.

Administration and Management Committee

The Administration and Management Committee supports the credo of the AEIs by offering guidance, education, support, and knowledge transfer between global members of the assembly to enhance growth and development of management and administration of surgical simulation centers. This Committee is responsible for planning an annual meeting track with content that targets members with management roles in AEIs who work collaboratively with highly trained professionals from a variety of disciplines, offering opportunities to network and get insights into practical knowledge of the administration and management of an AEI. Additionally, these sessions provide tips and tricks offered by many of our members who have been submerged in simulation administration, education, and/or research for many years. Its popular Hot Topics Series conducts webinars, free of charge, with ideas, tools, and strategies from other AEIs over a range of topics of interest to the Consortium. A biannual committee newsletter is published each year to keep AEIs abreast of the projects of the Administration and Management Committee with details, status updates, and important information for anyone running a simulation center.



Best Practices Committee

The Best Practices Committee identifies, disseminates, and promotes the best practices that have been identified through the AEI accreditation review process. The Best Practices Committee also identifies the best platforms to deliver the content and to keep it relevant for users within the surgical community. The Committee is currently working on building a library of best practice resources and maintains a collection of best practice videos on the ACS YouTube page. On an ongoing basis, AEIs are invited to submit videos on a best practice that was identified by the ARC or on something they do particularly well.

Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee facilitates and governs the development, implementation, validation, and dissemination of educational curricula for practicing surgeons and other learners in conjunction with measuring performance and patient-care outcomes. In 2013, the Committee conducted its needs assessment study to identify practice gaps in surgical knowledge and skill across specialties. Currently, the Committee, in a partnership with the Association of Program Directors in Surgery (APDS), is enthusiastic about its new direction of creating a series of OSCE-like simulation modules to teach residents communication skills using the milestone competencies as a framework. Curriculum Committee members are also currently exploring redirecting the textbook project into a user-friendly and interactive tool that helps users navigate the curriculum development process (e.g., a TurboTax for curriculum development). This project will be a collaboration of the Curriculum, Best Practices, and Faculty Development Committees.

Faculty Development Committee

Formed in 2014, the Faculty Development Committee's vision is to inform, motivate, and enable all educators of the surgical profession to promote their capabilities as interprofessional innovative teachers, facilitators, lifelong learners, and scholars. Based on the Committee's 2015 Consortium needs assessment study, the overarching goals are to provide training, consultation, and learning resources for promotion and the enhancement of innovative, blended, simulation, and individual and team-based surgical education. With its recent launch of the Article of the Month series, the Committee will be able to address through its core working groups, the identified gaps in the development of faculty teaching skills in simulation for the Consortium.





Fellowship Review Committee

The Fellowship Committee is responsible for the standards and criteria and the recommendation of accreditation for the Fellowship Program of the Consortium. The Fellowship Program is a formal year-long fellowship in which young surgeons work to develop, evaluate, and deliver medical education curricula enhanced by simulation technologies, as well as learn how to lead a simulation center. The Committee is charged with reviewing all applications received in order to formulate recommendations to accredit fellowship programs at AEIs. Once the recommendations are made by the Fellowship Committee, they are then sent to the Accreditation Review Committee for review. At that time, fellowship program accreditation decisions are made. The first set of fellowship accreditation decisions were made in 2013.

International Committee

The International Committee serves to breakdown the silos among the different AEIs across the globe. In this direction, it focuses on establishing an active and meaningful forum of the participating international AEIs to identify and catalogue the existing barriers and inequalities, as well as their individual characteristics, needs, and practices and enabling them to perform a SWOT analysis and communicate the results back to U.S. counterparts to enhance the collective power of the Consortium. International AEIs will also collaborate with the other ACS-AEI committees in order to effectively facilitate implementation of uniform curricula; assess, develop, and implement multi-institutional research programs; and promote the ACS-AEI vision in other countries and institutions wishing to share our common goals.

Patient Education Committee

The AEI Patient Education Committee is a new committee formed in 2016. This committee envisions a series of “train the trainer” skill-based courses for professionals, which are focused on optimal caregiver training to promote the best recovery and reduce the 25 percent thirty-day readmission rates, currently occurring even when patients are discharged to skilled nursing facilities or followed by home care. Our goal is to thoughtfully plan for implementation of courses throughout the AEI similar to those offered by the Advanced Trauma Life Support® (ATLS®) course/ American Heart Association for their train-the-trainer programs. This will also serve to heighten awareness of the upcoming course offerings around training professionals and care providers around postoperative home care management.

Program Committee

Formed in 2014, the Program Committee is responsible for planning the educational content of the Annual ACS Surgical Simulation Conference (formerly the AEI Consortium Meeting). The Program Review Committee oversees the review and selection of abstracts for paper and poster presentations at the annual meetings. Podium presentations are then turned into manuscripts and sent to the journal *Surgery* for consideration.

Research and Development Committee

The Research and Development Committee facilitates and governs the conceptualization, development, and implementation of multi-institutional research programs across the AEIs. The Committee offers guidance to help leverage the collaborative power of the Consortium of AEI Members to more rapidly answer research questions relating to the domain of simulation-based surgical education. The Committee's recent publication, *The American College of Surgeons Principles and Practice for Simulation and Surgical Education Research Manual*, was well received by the Consortium and met a perceived need in simulation and surgical education for a single repository to plan, undertake and implement scholarly work in this area. To foster multi-institutional research among the AEIs, the Committee has two proposals in the works: one to refine and expand performance across AEIs on simulation skills and develop a database to establish benchmarks in performance, training, assessment, learners, and knowing where they are and standards; and the second one on ROI in simulation and related to education outcomes through getting centers to demonstrate that there is a return on investment. The Committee is also responsible for vetting R&D proposals for the Consortium. Its new on-demand podcast series offers key points and perspectives to guide the listener through engaging discussions with an identified content expert in surgical training and education.




Technologies and Simulation Committee

The Technologies and Simulation Committee facilitates and governs the conceptualization, development, and implementation of training platforms and simulation standards across the AEIs. A new direction for the Technologies and Simulation Committee is the national virtual grand rounds that would use traditional video-conferencing in a low-cost way to institute monthly grand rounds at multiple sites on topics ranging from academia to operations for directors, staff, technicians and coordinators. The Committee is the core leadership group to develop simulation standards and recently produced Guidelines for Simulator Development, a set of preferred characteristics of surgical simulation.

Surveyors

Committed to comprehensively evaluating the scope and performance of a potential AEI, surveyors are selected from among a group of surgeons who were either nominated or recruited by members of the Accreditation Review Committee, ACS Division of Education staff, and Fellows of the College to file an application. All surveyors have expertise or an interest in simulation-based surgical education and have expressed an interest in wanting to serve as a volunteer surveyor for the accreditation program. They are expected to conduct at least one site visit per year and serve as experts on the standards and criteria of the AEI Program.

Learn more about the AEI Program and its Committees

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 facs.org/aei



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