



**SOCIETY FOR ACADEMIC
EMERGENCY MEDICINE**

UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL May 28, 2008 (12:01 AM ET)

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Medical Simulation Bill before Congress; National Consensus Conference to Identify Key Priority Areas

Medical simulation, a training process in which medical practitioners use realistic artificial environments to practice medical skills and procedures, is currently the subject of a bill before congress related to enhancing federal support for simulation initiatives nationwide.

On May 28, 2008, in Washington, D.C., *Academic Emergency Medicine* will be sponsoring a national research consensus conference entitled, "The Science of Simulation in Healthcare: Defining and Developing Clinical Expertise." The conference, to be held on the day before the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine (SAEM) Annual Meeting, is designed to apply broadly across specialties and disciplines.

An expert panel of cognitive scientists and educators will serve as keynotes to help guide the discussion, which begins with special remarks from the President of the American Board of Medical Specialties. The federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation, the Association for American Medical Colleges's MedEdPORTAL, the Risk Management Foundation of the Harvard Medical Institutions, and over 30 medical organizations/academic departments nationwide are providing funding support, along with unrestricted educational grants from major simulator manufacturers.

"Medical simulation provides a unique forum for health care providers to train and practice medical skills in a risk-free environment where no harm can come to the patient," says Dr. James A. Gordon of Harvard Medical School, who is co-chairing the conference with Dr. John A. Vozenilek of Northwestern University. "Enhanced federal support would provide significant opportunities for improving patient care and safety initiatives nationwide."

The full-day conference (8 a.m. – 5 p.m.) will be held in Washington, D.C at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel on the day prior to the 2008 SAEM Annual Meeting. Proceedings of the program, and original research on the topic, will be published in the November 2008 issue of *Academic Emergency Medicine*, the official journal of the SAEM.

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Press Room – 2008 SAEM Annual Meeting, May 29-June 1, 2008, Washington, D.C.

Location: Park Tower Suite #8222

Tel: (202) 328-2000 (ask for the SAEM Registration Desk)

Fax: (202) 234-0015 (mark for attn of Maryanne Greketis or Sandra Rummel)

Contact Sean Wagner (swagner@wiley.com) to arrange for an interview prior to or during the SAEM Annual Meeting.

About The Society for Academic Emergency Medicine (www.saem.org)

The Society for Academic Emergency Medicine (SAEM) is a national non-profit organization of over 6,000 academic emergency physicians, emergency medicine residents and medical students. SAEM's mission is to improve patient care by advancing research and education in emergency medicine. SAEM's vision is to promote ready access to quality emergency care for all patients, to advance emergency medicine as an academic and clinical discipline, and to maintain the highest professional standards as clinicians, teachers, and researchers. The SAEM Annual Meeting attracts approximately 2,000 medical students, residents and academic emergency physicians. It provides the largest forum for the presentation of original research in the specialty of Emergency Medicine.

About *Academic Emergency Medicine* (www.aemj.org)

AEM is a peer-reviewed journal whose goal is to advance the science, education, and clinical practice of emergency medicine, to serve as a voice for the academic emergency medicine community, and to enhance the goals and objectives of the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine (SAEM). Members and non-members worldwide depend on this journal for translational medicine relevant to emergency medicine, in addition to clinical news, case studies and more.

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