

# ASPiH TECH TIMES

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## Welcome to our 1st edition

The 1st edition of the ASPiH TECH TIMES is here at last!

For several years we have promised its publication and now with 2016 being such an exciting and productive year for technicians we can no longer rely on word-of-mouth and lengthy emails to communicate. There is important information that needs to be out there – professional registration and the ASPiH Standards for SBE is just the beginning!

The simulation technician community is growing, - over 10% of delegates who attended ASPiH 2016 Bristol described their role as technician, technologist and/or technical.

Every region plus Scotland, Ireland and Wales now has ASPiH Regional TECH Champion/s and the TECH Training/Networking events planned for 2017 will rely as heavily on their commitment as it will on you to attend.

The ASPiH TECH TIMES has to be a joint effort. The words 'stepping up' and raising

*your head above the parapet'* spring to mind – to sustain the Newsletter, hopefully a quarterly publication, we need news, contributors, articles, top tips, a day in the life – whatever you feel you want to share! The deadline for the Spring edition will be end of February 2017.

Thank you in anticipation and for your continuing support! It is really appreciated

Jane Nicklin – EDITOR

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## ASPiH is now a full member of the Science Council

The Association for Simulated Practice in Healthcare has been welcomed as a full member organisation of the Science Council. This was ratified at the General Meeting held on the 13th October 2016.

This means that ASPiH is now recognised as the professional body for simulation technicians and technologists – a landmark achievement!

Visit the ASPiH website for information on the route to professional registration and keep up-to-date through the Science Council. We are planning to run some joint workshops in 2017 to support Professional Registration.

*"The technician workforce plays a vital role across science, so we are delighted that ASPiH has joined the Science Council to ensure that their technician members can get the professional recognition that they deserve"*

Belinda Phipps; CEO, Science Council

[Route to Professional Registration](#)



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## VR Workshop

### ASP:IH 2016 Bristol

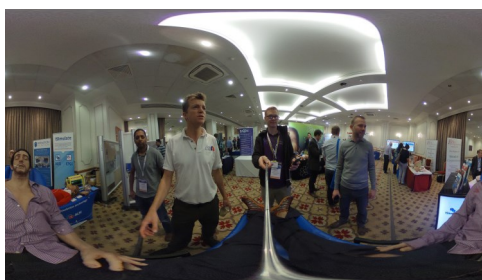
Chris Gay—Hull and East Yorkshire NHS Trust

Nick Peres—Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust

Virtual Reality (VR) promises to disrupt a wide range of areas – entertainment and education being at the forefront ripe for change. A survey-based study in 2016 identified VR as an area that many simulation centres were actively interested in, so a new workshop was developed to help get as many people as possible up to speed with this fast moving technology. The primary focus of the workshop was on the 360 degree video end of the VR spectrum, as we believe this currently offers the most cost effective yet accessible and impactful solution for those wishing to create their own experiences.

#### What is VR?

When we talk about VR, we are referring to viewing of computer generated imagery via a headset, with varying levels of interaction possible. This image may be a real photograph or video taken in 360° or a 3D virtual environment. VR has been around for at least 20 years, but the cost and complexity has been a barrier to entry. However, with the advent of several advances in technology, mainly the power of mobile phones, it is now reaching a much wider audience than before.



#### Why is VR important to simulation?

VR allows us to transport users into a range of immersive situations- this could be ones they may never get chance to experience, or one they experience every day, just viewed from a different perspective. Both VR and simulation have at their core experiencing something and changing the users perspective. The dramatic reduction in cost and complexity of both producing and experiencing VR has now enabled more people to engage with this medium. We believe there are significant opportunities for VR to be considered as another modality of simulation, adding to the range of technologies you might consider to use to reach a learning objective.

#### Where can I get more information?

We recommend reading through the following links to see recent stories about how VR is being used in Healthcare, along with a few online guides.

<https://www.theguardian.com/healthcare-network/2016/oct/19/virtual-reality-game-healthcare-hospitals-simulation>

<https://www.inverse.com/article/19117-appliedvr-replaces-pain-pills-and-anesthesia-with-virtual-reality>

<http://www.sunderlandecho.com/news/residents-are-given-a-virtual-view-l-8036525>

<http://patientvr.co.uk/> <https://vr.google.com/cardboard/>

## TECH Training/Networking events 2017

<b>26th January 2017</b>	1st NorthSimTechDay Download <a href="#">flyer</a> Programme available soon Email <a href="mailto:alison.rutherford@sunderland.ac.uk">alison.rutherford@sunderland.ac.uk</a> or <a href="mailto:jane.nicklin@simsupport.me.uk">jane.nicklin@simsupport.me.uk</a> to register	University of Sunderland The Living Lab	Sponsored by Laerdal Medical UK
<b>24th March 2017</b>	1st SouthSimTechDay Flyer and programme available soon Email <a href="mailto:cfrench@brookes.ac.uk">cfrench@brookes.ac.uk</a> to register	Oxford Brookes University Joel Joffe Building, Swindon	Sponsored by CAE Healthcare
<b>25th April 2017</b>	HEE YH Clinical Skills Network – themed SimTECH day	HILS (Hull Institute of Learning and Simulation) Hull	Sponsor/support yet to be confirmed
<b>21st June 2017</b>	UK HPSN Technical Day Day prior to the UK Simulation in Nursing, Midwifery & Allied Health Conference 2017	Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Nottingham Nuthall Road, NG8 6AZ	CAE Healthcare
<b>Summer 2017 Date TBC</b>	MDT Global Solutions, iSimulate team and Simbody/Immersive classroom have kindly offered their new facility.	Education Now Ltd, Knaves Beech Way, Loudwater, High Wycombe, HP10 9QY	MDT Global Solutions,
<b>September 2017 Date TBC</b>	The 5th ScotSimTechDay	Venue TBC	Sponsor/support yet to be confirmed

## Where are they now?

Do you remember Chris Tuffnell? He worked at Northumbria University as a Learning Technologist Advisor and was joint chair of the original ASPIH TECH SIG up until 2012. He moved out to Qatar to work on a hospital project as Simulation Analyst and then onto the United Arab Emirates, where he is now Lead for Education Technologies at Mohammed Bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences and the Editor of the TEL ME More Telegraph.

Well worth a look – it aims to bring you 'hot off the press' information and current opinion on all things related to digital, education, innovation and medical simulation, throughout the Middle East and Internationally.

Read the Dec.2016 [ISSUE](#)



Follow Chris on Twitter

[@chris\\_tuffnell](#)

TEL ME  
more\_ *Telegraph*

Technology Enhanced Learning in Medical Education



## Useful resources, links and contacts

**Manikin Mentality** blog piece on LinkedIn

Manikin mentality relates to the fact that "it's only a manikin", "it's not real", "it doesn't matter if I use extra force etc. to perform a technique - BECAUSE it's only a manikin".

Read the post [here](#)

David Halliwell MSc Para

Director at Academy of Professional Development

**ASPIH Standards for Simulation-Based Education 2016**

The latest edition of the Standards has a theme dedicated to Technical Personnel. This is testimony to ASPIH's commitment to support the role and other career development opportunities of their Technician members as well as facilitating the route to professional registration through the Science Council.

The Standards document and other information can be downloaded from the [ASPIH website](#)

**The role of the Regional TECH Champion** was officially launched at ASPIH 2015 Brighton

The key purpose of the role was to improve engagement, networking and professional development of Skills and Simulation Technicians across the 13 HEE regions, plus Scotland, Ireland and Wales and to act as 'ambassadors' in promoting the role of the skills and simulation technician and support the wider aims of the ASPIH community.

If you haven't done so already, please make yourself known to your Regional TECH Champion.

Contact details can be found on the ASPIH [website](#)

**MOULAGE CORNER** – Couldn't resist sharing a fake flesh recipe which is quick, easy, versatile and odourless and will keep up to two weeks in a plastic bag (does not have to be in the fridge)

Ingredients:

2 cups of Self raising Flour  
1 Cup of salt  
4 Teaspoons of Cream of Tartar  
2 Cups of water  
2 tablespoons of cooking oil  
Food colouring or liquid foundation

Put all the ingredients into a pan, stir and cook over a low heat until the mixture forms a soft ball.  
Making the flesh to the correct skin tone depends largely upon what skin tones you need.  
Minor variations in the pink skin can be dealt with by make-up.  
You can still use food colourings for darker skin tones or try the liquid foundation of the correct colour.

**Have you accessed [The Sim Tech](#)**

A FREE ONLINE RESOURCE FOCUSED ON HEALTHCARE SIMULATION. Based on continuing contributions from the simulation community, *thesimtech's* goal is to become an 'online hub' for sharing ideas and information for all things related to medical simulation.

## Duchess opens new state-of-the-art simulation hub at Northumbria

A proud moment for Nicky Jenkins and her recently appointed simulation technician John Stratford when the Duchess of Northumberland officially opened the North East's newest and most advanced NHS centre for simulation-based training – the Dunwoodie Assessment and Simulation Hub (DASH)

The Duchess said *“Not knowing quite what to expect, I was most impressed with the patient manikins and can see why they are extremely valuable tools for teaching and learning. It is great to see Northumbria leading the way and Northumberland playing a role in helping train people working in the health service here in our region and right across the country.”*

The centre's dedicated manager – Nicky Jenkins, has almost 20 years' experience as a nurse in emergency care, and technician – John Stratford – has been recruited to provide help and support to people using the fantastic resources of the Centre.

Dr Mark Sudlow, clinical director for simulation at Northumbria Healthcare, said: *“In today's constantly-evolving NHS, it's essential for staff to have the opportunity to gain valuable hands-on experience of difficult clinical situations in a safe environment.”*

Follow DASH on Twitter

@NorthumbriaDASH



John gets his moment of glory and presents the Duchess with a bouquet of flowers, closely observed by Nicky..... She's probably feeling she needs a bit of a debrief!



## TECH TALENT

The Best TECH Room presentation at ASPIH 2016 Bristol was won by Bronwyn Reid-McDermott, Simulation Technician from SimWest @ Galway University Hospital and National University of Ireland Galway.

Bronwyn's DIY Alternatives to Venepuncture Skin Pad Covers - Are Your Efforts in Vein? demonstrated a robust, innovative, home made alternative to commercial venepuncture skin pad covers.

### WELL DONE BRONWYN!

All the abstracts of the oral presentations, TECH room presentations and posters can be downloaded as a pdf from either the conference app Guidebook or alternatively accessed and downloaded from the BMJ STEL [Supplement](#) page

## Methodology

To compare the DIY alternative with its commercial counterpart, the pad covers were assessed with a number of different tests:

- Durability against multiple needle stabs (n = 50, n = 100)
- Resistance to staining against simulated blood
- Performance with adhesive dressings
- Using an objective comparison tool - the Simulator Value Index (SVI)

## NEW TOOLS

In her presentation Bronwyn Reid-McDermott referred to a specific Simulator Value Index (SVI) tool that she had used to evaluate her new product.

The tool has been developed jointly by the University of Michigan Simulation Center and the American College of Surgeons Consortium Technologies and Simulation Committee.

It is 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.

Very useful tool – The developers invite you to use the SVI Tool but ask for something in return. [Find out more](#)

That's it for the 1st edition, hope you enjoyed the read and found the content useful – please feedback your thoughts and send me content for the Spring 2017 edition. Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year! Jane x

