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TfS Dispatch #5 | January 2026

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This week's TfS Dispatch features a guest contribution from Mark Wardman, Education, Training and Professional Development Manager at Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust.

Mark brings a rare cross-sector perspective, with experience spanning simulation, engineering, human factors, and training and development in other safety-critical industries, alongside healthcare. He has also designed and built simulation training facilities in both the energy and utilities sector and the NHS.

In this piece, Mark builds on the camera-lens analogy introduced in Dispatch #3, drawing on lessons from outside healthcare to explore why *design intention* - not just scenario content - is central to achieving meaningful safety improvement. His reflections highlight how Transformative Simulation helps us surface hidden assumptions, choose our lenses deliberately, and learn from sectors where simulation has long been embedded as a driver of system-level change.

Transformative Simulation – Safety through a Non Healthcare Lens

In this TfS Dispatch, I intend to expand upon the camera lens analogy presented in Dispatch#3.

If you recall, Sharon introduced the the 7 Simulation Based Intentions (SBIs) as different camera lenses through which to view the simulation intention and activity. In essence, the chosen SBI lens influences the simulation design and process flow.

Sharon reminds us that all too often *"we have focused on the content of the scenario rather than the intent of the design."* This is particularly true and relevent for Simulation Based Education (SBE) where the *design* is centred around the learning objectives.

Although simulation practitioners routinely consider design elements such as fidelity and modality, these decisions are often absorbed into the overall process rather than made explicit.

> Transformative Simulation brings design to the foreground by asking a different question *"what are we designing for?"*

The TfS approach can be truly transforming as it allows us to expand our horizons and consider simulation from different perspectives and vantage points – vantage points that other safety critical industries routinely use. However, our optics can be consciously and subconsciously tinged by our own *filters,* meaning that we can all see things differently – do you see an old woman, a young women or maybe both?

Often, we have to work hard to remove our filters because we've become accustomed to seeing the world that way. Removing our own filters may allow us to see things differently and enjoy the view from a different vantage point and perspective.

So where am I going with this – well for years there have been repeated calls for healthcare to consider learning from other safety critical industries, but arguably with little success. Perhaps we are looking at other industries, not through a camera *lens*, but through the wrong end of a telescope whereby their world appears to be so far removed from our own healthcare world, that we don't find it useful?

What would we see if we were prepared to turn the telescope the right way round and what could we learn? I believe we'd see the value these other industries place on simulation in terms of investment, time and resources and that they deploy their simulation in a transformative manner.

> Linking this to the seven Simulation-Based Intentions, the critical decision becomes: *which lens are we applying, and what purpose are we designing for?*

Many of us probably drive, so the automotive industry is probably a very relatable non-healthcare sector for us to consider. If you think back to the first car you drove and compare it to the car that you drive today, what do you see… I'm sure you will see progress and this progress was no '*accident*,' it was *designed* that way.

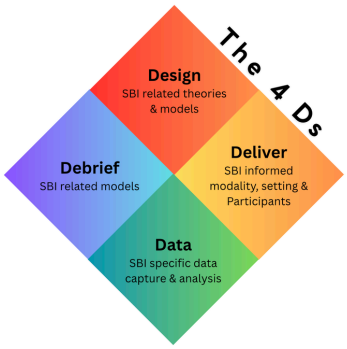
We don't need to be familiar with automotive manufacturing process to see or feel the benefits of ergonomics, reliability and the inclusion of 'new' technology such as 360 cameras and radar technology. Fundamentally, Transformative Simulation techniques played their part in this automotive evolution.

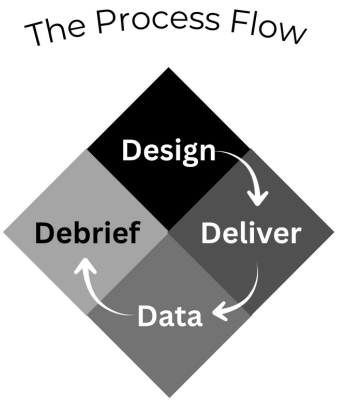
Let's consider safety and how the automotive industry routinely uses car crash scenarios as a method of Simulation Based Testing (SBT)... Linking this to the 7 Simulation Based Intentions, a decision needs to be taken on *"what lens should we apply"* and *"what are we designing for?"*

The Driver Lens ***or*** The Pedestrian Lens

Our choice of Simulation Based Intervention (SBI) *lens* informs our **D**esign, **D**elivery, **D**ata and **D**ebrief and kick starts the simulation process flow.

The 4Ds & The Interconnected Process Flow





The 4Ds process flow helps to clarity our purpose, intentions and interconnectivity to ensure meaning.

Design, what are we designing for and who and what should be involved? **D**elivery, what activities will take place, who and how will they perform them and in which environment? **D**ata, what are we hoping to see, what should we include or exclude (facts or emotion) and how will we capture it? Finally, **D**ebrief, how will we debrief, who will be involved and how do we harness the shared insight?

The Car Crash Simulation and the interconnection of the 4Ds.

Design – Simulation for small family car involved in low-speed front end collision against a fixed object

Delivery – Indoor environment, comprising crash test dummies representing 1 x driver & 1 x passenger both wearing seatbelts.

Data – Firstly car crumple zone data. Secondly the design decision to use crash test dummies rather than people, means we cannot ask them about their experience so we need to include data capture regarding their movement and potential injuries.

Debrief – Harness the insight from what was observed and what data was collected. The advantage of multi-disciplinary panels is the benefit of multiple perspectives such as; engineering specialists, who understand the impact of car crumple zones and physiological experts, who understand the impacts on the human body.

So going back to the beginning Sharon stated that *"we have focused on the content of the scenario rather than the intent of the design."* Hopefully you are more able to see the importance of design in Transformative Simulation. In addition, how the 7 SBIs influence and shape the 4**D**s of the simulation process. Equally, if we don't quite see what we were hoping to see, then we can alter our **D**esign, adjust our optics in order to provide the clarity we were hoping for.

Finally, linking this back to learning from other safety critical industries – I wonder how many physical car-crash simulations are undertaken by manufacturers as part of developing a single new model — and what that says about how seriously they take design for safety.

> *Guest contribution by* **Mark Wardman**

🌍 TfS in Practice: Real-World Spotlights

This recurring section highlights real-world examples of Transformative Simulation in action - across geographies and sectors.

Simulation-Based Improvement

Improving Stroke Care in Nepal

In a tertiary emergency department in Nepal, in situ simulation was used to improve the early assessment and management of acute stroke in a context of high staff turnover and limited formal team training. Stroke scenarios were designed to reflect clinical conditions and followed by structured debriefing and observation of real patient care.

The intervention led to faster and more consistent initial assessments, earlier provisional diagnoses, and significant reductions in door-to-needle times for thrombolysis. These improvements translated directly into safer, more timely stroke care.

This example demonstrates how simulation, when intentionally aligned with improvement goals, can drive measurable system-level change, even in resource-constrained settings, highlighting the role of simulation as a tool for improvement rather than education alone.

🔗 Read more: https://www.johs.org.uk/article/doi/10.54531/AQXO7164

Dr. Ohmar Man Pradhan Makani Purva Jiv Gosai Dr.**Pankaj Jalan**

Next TfS in Practice Webinar – 24 February 2026

TfS in Practice Webinar

Guest Speaker: Rose Edwards, University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust

Preparing staff, buildings, equipment and processes for service relocation using transformative simulation

Join us for our second TfS in Practice webinar, where Rose will talk about preparing staff, buildings, equipment and processes for service relocation using transformative simulation.

📅 **Tuesday 24 February 2026**

🕐 **13:00–14:00 UK time**

Open to all – 🔗 Register here

The TfS Design Lens Game Reminder

If you want to deepen your understanding of the seven TfS lenses - or help colleagues or students grasp the difference between Identification, Involvement, Innovation and the others - the **TfS Design Lens Game** offers a simple and playful way to do it.

Drawing on real-world examples and their intended purpose, the game invites you to *match the purpose to the correct Simulation-Based Intention*.

It's a quick, engaging way to explore how different lenses shape design choices and reveal different kinds of insight - and a practical tool for teaching, facilitation, and team development.

Download the game here

📣 Get Involved

- Want to **present at a webinar**? Let us know.
- Interested in joining the **Strategic Group**? Expressions of interest opening soon.
- Our **TfS WhatsApp group** has launched! 👉 Join here
- Further resources available here: https://aspih.org.uk/tfs-infographics/

Thanks for being here. This movement is growing - and it needs your insight, curiosity, and creativity.

#TransformativeSimulation #TfS #SimulationForChange #ASPiH

Dr Manish Honwad MD Anaesthesiology MPhil ... · ... 1mo
PROFESSOR, Anaesthesiology & Critical Care WHO Fellow Neuroa...

Dear Sharon, just received the Tfs dispatch 5 Thank you for the insights .will exchange notes at Pune @Symsim
Dr manish honwad
The sim doctor @ simhealthtoday.com ...more

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Sharon Marie Weldon Author 1mo
Professor of Healthcare Simulation and Workforce Developm...

Thank you, Dr Manish Honwad MD Anaesthesiology MPhil CHSE I'm glad it resonated. Cross-sector exchange is exactly where this work comes alive. I'll be in Pune shortly, so no doubt the conversation will continue. ...more

Like | Reply | 45 impressions

Mark Wardman · 1st 1mo
Education, Training and Professional Development Manager at Lan...

Thank you, Sharon, for the opportunity to write the article promoting Transformative Simulation and Safety Insight from other Safety Critical Industries – also for welcoming me into healthcare simulation fraternity at ASPiH

Like | Reply · 1 reply

Sharon Marie Weldon Author 1mo
Professor of Healthcare Simulation and Workforce Developm...

Thank you, Mark it was a real pleasure to have your perspective and to see TfS translated so clearly through a safety-critical lens. I'm glad the piece resonated.

Like | Reply | 76 impressions

TfS Dispatch

Transformative Simulation in action — shaping systems, culture & practice through intentional, values-based design

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