Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Simulator/Model Showcase

The DIY Simulator/Model Showcase will be hosted at the 2027 ACS Innovation Summit. The aim of the showcase is to promote the development of do-it-yourself simulators and models and to encourage their use to improve simulation-based surgical education and training. While surgeon-engineer collaboration is encouraged, submitters are not required to be surgeons or engineers. If your entry is accepted, you will have the opportunity to give a short presentation and hands-on demonstration with your simulators/models at the 2027 meeting. You will need to register for the meeting to present your simulators/models. Please see the following entry submission information.

- Submission Link: https://redcap.facs.org/surveys/?s=RFCRRA3A3TYT3NM9
- Submission deadline: 11:59 pm CT on Monday, September 21, 2026
- Invitation notification: October 2026
- Eligibility: Entries from any simulator/model companies will not be accepted.
- 1st place winner prize: Complimentary registration for the 2028 Innovation Summit: Simulation, Technology, and Engineering
- Presentation format
- Pre-Meeting: A 3-minute pre-recorded presentation to judges. Please see the video submission guidelines below.
- Competition at the Meeting: A 1-2 minute demonstration to judges, and a 60-minute interactive demonstration of your simulator/model for meeting attendees.

A panel of expert judges will evaluate the simulator/model. If invited, you must register for the meeting to participate in the DIY Simulator/Model Showcase.

Simulator/Model Evaluation Criteria

DIY Showcase entries will be evaluated by the judges in the following domains:

- Creativity

- Ease of setup/breakdown
- Ease of use (once the simulator is made)
- Relevance to the procedure being taught
- Material haptics
- Cost-effectiveness

Video Submission Guidelines

On the entry form, you will be asked to provide a link to a video recording demonstration of your simulator/model. Please submit a three-minute video demonstrating the use of your simulator/model. Please include the following at a minimum:

- Demonstrate multiple angles of your simulator/model, such as bird's eye, back, front, side, and, if appropriate, an inside view.
- Demonstrate the simulator/model in use (if your procedure takes longer than three minutes, show the sections that demonstrate the nature of your simulator/model best).
- Demonstrate the nature of the materials used to make your simulator/model, if possible, such as visual haptics, stiffness, elasticity, deformation, etc. In some cases, this may be achieved by interacting with the simulator with your fingers or a surgical instrument.
- Use voiceover for this video effectively by explaining your concept or describing the design, especially parts that may be difficult to show visually.

Questions about submission? Contact Josh Vognsen, MSHS, CHSOS, at jvognsen@facs.org.