

## SSH Profiles in Simulation: August 2017

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### Shivers



When Katie Walker was a nurse educator in her native Australia in the early 2,000s, she had a very clear “a-ha” moment. She was a nurse educator at the time.

“I remember the first immersive simulation that I saw in Sydney,” she said. “It was actually a dental sedation scenario. I remember looking through the glass into this little room and getting shivers. I thought there is no better way to teach this. I was hooked.”

She became involved in starting the Australian Society for Simulation in Healthcare, working closely with SSH. Katie became the national project manager when the national health minister dedicated AUD 100 million, roughly \$80 million, to establish and expand simulation in the country. Sixty new simulation programs were created through this effort.

She was leading a session in 2008 on how to establish and maintain a simulation at IMSH, when she was approached by representatives of New York City Health and Hospitals Corp. sought her advice.

When the director position for that center became available in 2011, Walker left the land Down Under for the Big Apple.

The opportunity was a perfect example of the value of SSH.

“The value of SSH, it really is the lead organization for simulation in healthcare. There’s an awesome group of experts in the field who are valuable to network with and to bring expertise back to your center,” she said.

And once in the United States, Walker began taking leadership posts within SSH. She has served on the board of directors for the last six years, including serving as treasurer and secretary.

“It is a privilege to be able to serve with your colleagues, and friends who are innovators in the field,” she said.