Profiles in Simulation: Dr. Jennifer Arnold
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The Five Arms of Simulation in Healthcare

While many people immediately recognize Dr. Jennifer Arnold from her TLC reality series "The Little Couple," they may not know that her true passion is simulation in healthcare.

A graduate of the University of Miami and the Johns Hopkins Medical School who completed her training at the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Arnold says that a career focused on pediatric medical education, incorporating simulation, has met her loves of teaching and medicine.

As part of a fellowship she earned at the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Arnold conducted a randomized clinical trial that found that pediatric residents that went through simulated training had higher success rates with real-life intubations of babies.

“I knew that this was my cause,” says Dr. Arnold, who led the development of the Pediatric Simulation Center at Texas Children’s Hospital and has now taken on a similar position as medical director of simulation at the Johns Hopkins All Children’s Hospital in St. Petersburg, FL.

Arnold is introducing to her Florida facility a concept that she developed in Texas, the five arms of simulation in healthcare:

- Education
- Quality and Patient Safety
- Research
- Competency and Assessment
- Advocacy

It is through that last bullet point, advocacy, that simulation in healthcare will be accepted as a commonplace, necessary part of healthcare education and training.
“I think we just need, somehow, to get simulation embedded in the daily work of the institution. It just needs to be a part of our work, and required as such.”

Dr. Arnold is proud of her affiliation with SSH and the growth that she has seen in the field and in the society.

“The society has grown, it has changed. It's matured over the years. I see the role of SSH to be a resource, an opportunity to network, to collaborate. It’s an exciting time. We are really ready to blossom.”