Jamie Robertson’s grandmother taught typing and shorthand. Her mother taught K-12 special education. So Jamie, as she puts it, “tried really hard not to become a teacher.”

She became an epidemiologist.

And while working at the Oregon Health and Science University in quality and patient safety in the anesthesia department, she became involved in the analysis of the impact that mock code drills were having on actual emergency situations.

But education, as it turns out, really is in her blood.

She began teaching inter-professional courses designed for medical students (dental nursing, pharmacy) on team dynamics and inter-professional training.

In 2015, she began work at the STRATUS Center for Medical Simulation at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, where she serves as the Assistant Director of Simulation-Based Learning. She convinced them that they needed to hire an epidemiologist, who was focused on education. She develops the curriculum for simulation-based education and training, and teaches several courses.

But it’s teaching with a twist.

“Simulation is an exciting way to learn; people get to have hands-on practice doing things. They get to immediately test their skills and get feedback on what they are doing well, what they could be doing better -- in a safe setting,” she said “People are free to make mistakes, to ask questions and to be vulnerable, which is something that we often don’t value in healthcare. It’s exciting to see people have their ‘a – ha’ moments.”

Jamie serves as the chair of the affiliations subcommittee at SSH and as a member of external strategic relations committee.
“SSH has been invaluable to be able to exchange information with people at different centers at different sites, everybody has such great ideas. The connections that I’ve made with peers and mentors and people who have helped me develop my career have been incredible.”

“This is a really exciting time for simulation, we are hearing all the time from people in the hospital that they are looking for better ways to deliver education and train their people. It is going to go beyond medical students and residents and to people who are in administrative roles and other functions throughout the healthcare environment.”