



SESSION CONCEPT NOTE

MedEdAfrica 2026 | July 6–8, 2026 | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

SESSION INFORMATION

Session Title	<i>Innovations in Simulation Programming and Sustainability for Medical Education</i>
Session Type	<i>Breakout (Interactive Workshop)</i>
Theme Track	<i>Transformative Technologies, AI, Innovation, and Simulation-based Education in Medical Education</i>
Date & Time	<i>Day 2 Tuesday, July 7, 2026 10:30-12:00 PM</i>
Duration	<i>90 minutes (75 minutes + 15 minutes wrap up/transition)</i>
Room / Venue	<i>TBC</i>

Session Overview

This session aims to highlight novel innovations in simulation for African Medical Education in 2026 and beyond, including how we can rethink tools, access, training and collaboration mechanisms to accelerate adoption, growth, impact and sustainability of our programs

Learning Objectives

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Identify key barriers or challenges currently impeding the growth of simulation programs and scaling of partnerships throughout the continent
- Recognize how we can reframe simulation education not as a manikins or technology, but as a lifelong learning learning tool to drive continuous clinical quality improvement
- Examine emerging themes in where extended and virtual reality can be deployed to achieve the highest impact in clinical training and knowledge transfer
- Understand the potential use of simulation across health professions education for pre-service training to improve uptake of new/emerging technologies such as POCUS

Session Breakdown

This 90-minute interactive session will be highly participatory and learner-centered.

TIME	ACTIVITY / DESCRIPTION	FACILITATOR / NOTES
10:30-10:35	Introductory Remarks	Dean Salma Mahmoud
10:35-10:45	Audience Poll & Introduction of Panelists	Dr. Christopher Calahan
10:45-10:53	Using Simulation for Pre-Service Technology Adoption: The Critical Uptake of POCUS in UME	Dr. Nkechi Dike
10:55-11:03	Mobile Simulation + Adoption of QI Frameworks	Dr. Ornella Masimbi
11:05-11:13	Extended & Virtual Reality: High Impact Implementation	Judith Okonkwo
11:15-11:23	Program Roadblocks & Challenges in Scaling Partnerships	Dr. Marvin Jansen
11:25-12:00	Interactive Panel/Q&A	Moderator: Christopher Calahan

Technical Requirements & Setup

List audio-visual, equipment, and logistical needs for this session:

- Projector and screen: Yes / No
- Microphone: Handheld / Lapel / Table / Not required
- Internet access: Required / Not required
- Special equipment: [e.g., simulation equipment, breakout tables, printed handouts]
- Any other requirements: [describe here]

Speaker / Facilitator Bios

Complete one block per speaker or facilitator. Add or remove blocks as needed.

Speaker Diversity and Inclusion: Session organizers should ensure that speakers represent diverse backgrounds, gender balance, geographic regions, linguistic backgrounds, and expertise.

Moderator — Dean Salma Mahmoud

Dean, School of Health and Medical Sciences (SHMS) | State University of Zanzibar | Tanzania/Zanzibar
Deputy General Secretary of the Consortium of Medical School in Africa (COMS-A)

Insert a brief biography (3–5 sentences): professional background, current role, and areas of expertise relevant to this session.

Facilitator — Dr. Christopher Calahan

Deputy Chair, Centre for Transformative Learning Technologies | UGHE | Rwanda + US

Dr. Calahan is an Internist and Pediatrician passionate about health systems strengthening through scaling innovation in medical education. He is an Instructor in Medicine at Harvard Medical School, and the Deputy Chair of UGHE's Centre for Transformative Learning Technologies (CTLT), where he is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor. Dr. Calahan practices clinically as a combined hospitalist at Massachusetts General Hospital and Boston Children's Hospital in Boston, with a primary appointment as a Faculty Investigator in the Brigham and Women's Division of Global Health Equity.

Panelist — Dr. Ornella Masimbi (Mobile Sim + Embedded QI)

Head, Simulation & XR/VR | UGHE | Rwanda

Dr. Ornella Masimbi, MBBS, MGHD, is the Founding Lecturer of UGHE's Simulation Program and Head of Simulation and Extended Reality at the University of Global Health Equity, Rwanda. She leads immersive learning and in-situ simulation initiatives that strengthen clinical readiness, interprofessional teamwork, patient safety, and quality improvement. Her work builds scalable, locally owned simulation systems for rural hospitals and health-professions education across Africa.

Panelist — Judith Okonkwo (High Impact XR/VR Applications)

Founder | Imisi 3D/Extended Reality Development Initiative | Nigeria

Judith Okonkwo, an award winning Technology Evangelist and Business Psychologist, is the founder of Imisi 3D/ERDI, a leading builder of Africa's extended reality ecosystem. Her mission is to harness immersive technologies for the progress and prosperity of the African continent. Uniquely sector agnostic in its work, Imisi 3D has over the last decade engaged over 100,000 people, as well as connecting and building capacity across 42 African countries in North, West, South and East Africa; and adapting immersive technologies, particularly low and mid cost virtual reality, for education, healthcare and storytelling.

Panelist — Dr. Nkechi Dike (Pre-Service Training/POCUS)

Simulation Lead | School of Medical Sciences, University of Cape Coast (UCCSMS) | Ghana

Dr. Nkechi O. Dike is an Emergency Physician and Senior Lecturer at the University of Cape Coast School of Medical Sciences, Ghana, with advanced fellowship training in Simulation-Based Medical Education from the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Florida. She has been at the forefront of advancing simulation-based education and faculty development in Ghana across Africa, leading innovative initiatives in curriculum design, competency-based training, and healthcare simulation through collaborations with medical schools and international partners. Passionate about preparing the next generation of healthcare professionals, her work focuses on leveraging simulation, emerging technologies, and educational innovation to strengthen clinical competence, patient safety, and health professions education across the continent.

Panelist — Dr. Marvin Jansen (General, Program Challenges + Roadblocks)

Head of Simulation Centre | University of Cape Town | South Africa

Dr Marvin Jansen is the Head of the Simulation Centre at the University of Cape Town, with a PhD in Health Sciences Education. His work focuses on healthcare simulation, acute care education, faculty development and building simulation capacity in resource-constrained settings. He is the President of the African Simulation Network and serves in several national and international roles advancing simulation-based education across Africa and beyond.

Questions of Interest for Panel

- Ornella
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- Nkechi
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- Marvin
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- Judith
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