Description

Standardized patients are lay people trained to simulate certain medical conditions in a realistic and consistent fashion. They are also trained to act effectively as evaluators and teachers of medical students, physician assistant candidates, nursing students, residents, and practicing clinicians. They are able to document an examiner's performance, and provide written and verbal feedback in a positive and non-threatening setting. The purpose can range from pure education to primarily an evaluation instrument for the assessment of communication and clinical competence. The Standardized Patient Assessment Site has state-of-the-art clinic rooms with closed-circuit monitoring and videotaping capability (B-Line), small group/break-out session rooms, and a Clinical Skills Lab offering the student a multi-media approach for self-tutorial and remediation exercises. *Read more…*

General Strengths & Weaknesses

UMMS users report that Standardized Patients (SPs) are "*…well-trained and great for giving students formative feedback on difficult interviewing techniques.*" And that "*…most do a good job seeking information regarding how the faculty member wants the case to unfold.*" *"They are a great resource for clinical teaching!"*

Familiarity and variability are reported as weaknesses in SP use.

"*…students complain about variability of SP feedback and history-giving…"*
"…the same people and often confuse previous stories with new script…"
"*…over-familiarity with a cohort of SPs dilutes the power of interaction with a new case (played by an 'old' actor)…"*
"Not enough diversity in our SP population."

Peer Resources

Sheldon Benjamin
Michael Ennis
Deborah Field
Melissa Fischer
Dawn Fraga
Janet Hale
Mary Hawthorne
Julie Jonassen
Maurice Joyce
Tracy Kedian
Linda Long
Suzana Makowski
Mark Manning
Ann Perla
Lyn Riza
Shahrzad Shidfar
Melinda Taylor*

UMMS Information Services Support

Email Pam Peper [(508) 856-0077] of the Standardized Patient Program for more information.
Contact Melinda Taylor in the Simulation Center with questions about use of SP video (B-Line)

The Standardized Patient Program **Location**

Worcester Foundation Campus, Hoaglund – Pincus Conference Center (lower level).
222 Maple Avenue
Shrewsbury, MA 01545
(*click for directions*)

Standardized Patient Program **Faculty and Staff**

Wendy L. Gammon, M.A., M.Ed., Program Director and Trainer
Linda Tupper, Program Administrator
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