Become a Standardized Patient (SP)



What is a Standardized Patient (SP)?

- SPs come from all walks of life, all different kinds of people, different abilities, sexual orientations, ages and gender identities.
- SPs are everyday people who form part of a team to help people learn at UMass Chan Medical School.
- SPs look and act like actual patients.
- SPs are taught to play a character with the same personal and health history, and personality qualities of an individual patient in a realistic and repeatable way.
- SPs help health professions learners build skills to interact with patients.

If you are interested in a program that helps you develop the skills of acting as a patient as well as helping health professions learners of all levels, join us! We are part of a simulation team that acts under the instruction of teachers to support learning. Opportunities may include:

- **Acting as a** patient with medical conditions and/or emotional as well as communication challenges
- **Evaluating, scoring, and coaching your learner, in accordance with faculty-defined skills and abilities**
- **Growing in the profession** by attending additional training on how to help medical students learn proper physical examination skills - in addition, SPs may choose to take on further training for advanced physical exams of the body.

Join the Longest-running Simulation Program in This Region!

Since 1982, UMass Chan Medical School SPs have been respected and in demand as skilled instructors and evaluators. Our SPs work with medical students, physician assistant candidates, nursing students, residents, social work students and practicing clinicians across New England.

SPs at UMass Chan Medical School are carefully trained to **work as a team** to role-play or act out a broad range of specific medical conditions as defined by the faculty members, to realistically and consistently mimic patient encounters. SPs are also trained to rate and keep a record of learner performance and give written and verbal feedback using methods that make the learner's educational experience the best possible.

Some UMass Chan Medical School iCELS SPs have been with the program since 1982, others since the 90s, some joined in recent years, or even months. We maintain a community of SPs to meet specific requirements of different kinds of people in the case scenarios. UMass Chan Medical School iCELS SP Program offers SPs training to grow from stage to stage in your SP career:

- **Stage 1: SP Onboarding**

A series of basic SP training takes place

- **Stage 2: Event Training**

SP learns 5 skills:
i) Talk about a history and case content
ii) Act like a patient
iii) Assess focused physical exams
iv) Score for accuracy
v) Provide feedback to the learners

- **Stage 3: SP Development**

Most SPs enjoy this stage the most and become more and more experienced in handling a range of different cases. Some SPs have been with the program for 40 years!

A Culture of Collaboration

Our program provides academic services to medical schools, area hospitals, academic nursing and physician assistant programs in the New England region. The program continues to make progress as an active participant in Continuing Medical Education (CME) and Graduate Medical Education (GME) courses.

As a majority of training sessions are held onsite in **Worcester**, SPs should anticipate a need to travel to the Worcester campus. **Some work may also be held online** via secured Zoom sessions that require reliable equipment including a computer or mobile device, as well as internet connection.

Level of Commitment from You

Being an SP is meaningful per diem work (i.e. paid per day) with an opportunity to partner with and see medical learners grow over time. The program manages a wide range of simulations. Some involve a general population, while others may require many standardized patients of a very specific group of people in order to meet specific educational goals as defined by faculty. Hours may vary, depending upon the educational goals and demographics required for each assignment, as well as the academic calendar (March, April and May being the busiest time of the year; June or July the least).

Minimum Requirements

While some SPs enrich our shared experience with their background in acting, healthcare, education or communication, the program warmly welcomes people from all different backgrounds. Regardless of your previous work or training, you bring lived experience and represent a member of the community in our society today!

There are requirements to effectively participate in the program and dependably be there for our learners. You must:

- Have reliable transportation
- Be reachable by mobile phone, in case of last-minute changes before and during events.
- Have a personal email account to access initial program information or have a support person who can receive emails to review with you.
- Work well with others and ability to communicate with words.
- Wear clothing and shoes that support you in teaching and learning activities, ensuring that everyone feels comfortable and can participate fully.
- Follow rules about not sharing details about cases or learners outside your work and act respectfully when working with others.
- Agree to complete all scheduled training to become familiar with the assigned cases, to the satisfaction of the Standardized Patient event managers/trainers/faculty/learners.
- Commit to the program for at least one year's duration

Apply Now

STEP 1: Click on this link to watch our informational video:

[iCELS Standardized Patient Info Session on Vimeo]



STEP 2: Click on this link to tell us that you want to become an SP**:** Register here

STEP 3: Click on this link to sign up for an interview: Interview sign up

STEP 4: Follow steps to become officially hired if selected

For assistance completing this HR process, please contact us at 508-856-5434.

We look forward to hearing from you!