

Simulated Client Initiative (SCI)

A warm welcome to the Simulated Client Initiative, an international collaboration to develop a research base and resources for the use of simulated clients in the teaching and learning of legal skills and knowledge. This public blog has been assembled as a resource for all academics, practitioners, students and simulated clients interested in the use of simulation techniques in legal education.

Simulated patients have for over half a century now been used for a variety of purposes in medical education. Lay people are trained to simulate a patient with a specific condition. In a role-play consultation, medical students or medical professionals are required to recognise the condition from the patient's description using their clinical, caring and patient-handling skills. In some instances, patients are also trained to assess doctors' communication skills. More recently simulated clients have been used in areas of legal research into professional services, and they have been used in other disciplines too. Further information is set out in the FAQ below...

SCI aims?

1. Encourage the establishment and maintenance of SC projects globally.
2. Collate and update pre-existing research on standardisation and simulation practices across a range of disciplines and professions.
3. Research the use of simulated clients (SCs) in the education of law students, trainees and lawyers through a series of pilot projects and research publications
4. Produce a body of open-access resources that will enable staff in law schools and other legal educational centres to develop their own SC programmes, in undergraduate, postgraduate and professional legal education.

Who are members of the SCI?

At present we don't have institutional membership, so we ask members to join us on an individual basis. It's free, but we'd ask members to register interest. They then become eligible to blog on the SCI website to let us know about their news and publications on SCs. Current members are listed on the RH side of the blog, and as the numbers grow we shall have a separate membership listing. For now, email Paul Maharg if you want to join us: pmaharg@osgoode.yorku.ca

What do members do?

Either they use SCs, or fund the use of SCs, train SCs, write about the method or are involved in the furtherment of the Initiative in one way or another. And contribute to this blog!

Who funded all this?

The initiative has been funded by:

- Burge Endowment, Georgia State University, USA
- Clark Foundation for Legal Education, Scotland
- College of Law (now University of Law), England

We're always looking for funding, so please do contact us if you have a funding idea or possible bid.

I think this is a great idea and I want to join. What next?

If you would like to know more about the SCI or join, contact Paul Maharg,
pmaharg@osgoode.yorku.ca