

Title: Keeping it real: real people within simulation

Background: Simulation-based education is now an essential component of healthcare training. While manikin-based simulation and extended reality (XR), support the development of several skills. communication training, with 'real people' should remain central. Simulated participants (SPs), real people trained to portray patients, carers and colleagues, offer a powerful means of delivering consistent, authentic, and transferable communication-based learning experiences. As clinical placement opportunities become increasingly constrained and continuing professional development a vital ongoing requirement for staff, the roles of SPs in healthcare education, is more essential than ever. Their involvement also raises important considerations around professionalism, psychological safety, and the respectful integration of lived experience into simulation design.

Target Audience: All who have an interest in developing the involvement of real people in simulation.

Session Description: This interactive session will feature group-based activities and structured discussion. Delegates will share experiences, explore best practices, and collaborate on developing practical approaches to 'real people' involvement in simulation.

Aim: To explore the involvement of SPs in healthcare simulation and to add to a framework that promotes ethical practice, sustainability, and psychological safety for learners, facilitators, and SPs alike and that respectfully aligns with those with lived experience.

Objectives:

- To identify key factors in engaging with SPs and those with lived experience, safely, respectfully, and professionally.
- To explore strategies for optimising the contribution of SPs to create a valuable and sustainable educational model.
- To support delegates in developing a context-specific plan for incorporating SPs into their organisation's simulation activities.

Facilitators:

- Gary Francis, Head of Practice-related learning, Health Sciences University
- Carrie Hamilton, CEO and Founder, SimComm Academy
- Gareth Evans, Simulation & Clinical Skills Lead, Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust; Simulation Fellow, Health Sciences University
- Scarlet Herbertson, Student Ambassador, SimComm Academy
- Dr James Nicholson, Simulation Fellow, Post Graduate Centre, Royal Cornwall Hospital

References / Further reading:

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