**CREST Simulated Patients (SP)**

**Introduction**

THE CREST project has recruited and trained a group of 30 simulated patients from a range of ethnic linguistic and cultural backgrounds. The SPs recruited have been trained to undertake one or more of the 8 case studies associated with the CREST modules.

Our Simulated patients may also be available to participate in your simulation scenarios.

**Employing a CREST simulated patient for the CREST modules**

Education providers wishing to employ SPs from the CREST pool for CREST scenarios should follow the following steps:

1. Determine which of the case studies you will be offering your learners
2. Contact the CREST team – email karen.livesay@vu.edu.au
3. List the CREST case(s) you require SPs for

CREST personnel will reply to your request with the name and preferred contact details for the SPs trained to undertake your specified scenario. You will then be able to contact the SP and negotiate employment directly with the individual. CREST takes no responsibility to ensure individual SPs will be available for your date or location.

**Employing a CREST simulated patient for other simulation work**

Education providers wishing to employ SPs from the CREST pool for other simulation work should follow the listed steps:

1. Identify the characteristics of the SP you require. This may include but is not limited to age range, sex, English proficiency, willingness to undertake physical examination, willingness to work in mixed gender groups, scars, pre-existing conditions.
2. Contact the CREST team – email karen.livesay@vu.edu.au
3. List the SP characteristics required

CREST personnel will reply to your request with the name and preferred contact details for the SPs who meet your stated requirements. You will then be able to contact the SP and negotiate employment directly with the individual.

**Preparation for simulated patient work**

**CREST case studies**

Simulated patients portraying patients in the CREST case studies have rehearsed and performed the role. Each individual has a hard copy of the case study in order to revise the role. They will have assigned an individual name to the case study patient in keeping with their culture ethnicity and preference. CREST encourages you to undertake a pre-briefing in line with simulation program best practice before the teaching encounter.

**Pre-briefing simulated patients for CREST case studies**

Simulated patients should be booked and confirmed for teaching sessions 30 days prior to the event. At the time of booking the SP will require the date, starting and completion times and location of the class as well as the case study title. You should provide the SP with teacher/tutor contact details to be used in case of unanticipated absence such as sickness on the day of the class.

Whilst specific rehearsal time is not required we recommend meeting the SP at least 15 minutes prior to the commencement of the lesson and provision of a map or room location instructions or agreement on a readily locatable meeting point. SPs have varying English language proficiency and may prefer to receive information verbally.

**Other simulation work**

Please refer to the simulated patient agreement to illustrate the expectations of employer and SP anticipated in the training and portrayal of simulated scenarios.

When contacting simulated patients to offer work in scenarios outside of the CREST program, please explicitly describe the requirements of the role with particular attention to the aims of the encounter, the topic matter and the need for physical role portrayal or student intervention. All SPs maintain the right to refuse work or withdraw from scenarios which cause discomfort.

Simulated patients will need rehearsal and feedback to master the portrayal and employment contracts should reflect sufficient allowance of time for this to be undertaken to the satisfaction of the program staff and individual SP. CREST SPs display the same variation in learning style and speed as any other student group, therefore we advise you to anticipate variation in aptitude for new roles. All SPs have undertaken training and practice in the principles of providing feedback to learners in debrief and the role and decorum of the SP during tutor facilitated encounters. If you have specific needs and requests regarding feedback to learners we suggest this forms part of the briefing and rehearsal process undertaken.

 **Resources for SP employment**

The CREST project has developed sample employment contracts and simulated patient agreements which can be used or adapted by employing organisations. Sample agreements and contracts are available in the following languages:

Amharic

Arabic

Chinese

English

French

Greek

Hindi

Italian

Shona

Vietnamese

**Employment conditions**

It is up to each employing agency to determine employment conditions in agreement with the individual simulated patients. As an indication CREST funded work is paid at $41.36 per hour in 2 hour minimum blocks. SPs are responsible for their own transport to and from the teaching venue.