eViP Virtual Patient Survey

1. Introduction

What is eViP?

eViP is a 3-year programme co-funded by the European Union to create a bank of repurposed and enriched multicultural virtual patient cases from across Europe. The programme officially started in September 2007 and is due to finish in September 2010.

What is a virtual patient?

A virtual patient is defined as: "an interactive computer simulation of real-life clinical scenarios for the purpose of medical training, education, or assessment". Virtual patients usually have 2 components, the patient case including patient data, and the educational activities leading to a specific educational goal.

What is the purpose of this survey?

This survey, which is divided into five sections, will allow the eViP team to gain a better understanding of the current use of virtual patients across a wide range of countries and to help the programme meet the needs of the community.

2. Your current use of virtual patients

The section of the survey asks about your current use of virtual patients, how you use these with students, and if you use a computer-based system to manage virtual patients.

1. Are virtual patients used somewhere in your curriculum? (If the answer is 'No', please click 'No' below, then proceed to question 13 in the next section of the survey)

◯ Yes   ◯ No

2. Do you currently use virtual patients in your own practice (teaching, learning and/or assessment)?

◯ Yes   ◯ No

3. If yes, please briefly describe the educational scenarios in which you use virtual patients (select all that apply)

☐ Problem Based Learning

☐ Group work

☐ Independent learning

☐ Bedside teaching

☐ Lecture aid

☐ Supplementary resource

Others (please specify)

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4. At what stage/level your students usually use virtual patients?

- Preclinical
- Clinical
- Residency
- CPD

Other (please specify)

5. Are students expected to use VPs (select all that apply):

- Preparing for classes
- During classes
- As a follow-up to classes
- For independent study
- In examinations or other forms of summative assessment

Other (please specify)

6. Where do the virtual patients you use come from?

- Created by you or your institution
- Purchased commercially
- Found on the Internet
- Shared with one or more institutions as part of an academic collaboration

Other (please specify)

7. Does your virtual patient system include any question types? (select all that apply)

- Multiple choice questions
- Extended matching questions
- Open questions
- Long menu questions

Other (please specify)

8. Have you used virtual patients in summative student assessment?

⊜ Preparing for exams

⊜ In exams

⊜ In OSCEs

Other (please specify)

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9. Have you conducted any evaluation of virtual patients with students?

⊚ Yes　　　　　　　　　　　⊚ No

If yes, have the evaluation results been made public or published, and if so, please give a reference.

[   ]

10. Do you use a computer-based system to manage your virtual patients?

⊚ Yes　　　　　　　　　　　⊚ No

If yes, please tell us the name of your virtual patient system.

[   ]

11. Is your virtual patient system a commercial system, open source, or has your institution developed it? (select all that apply)

⊜ Don't know

⊜ Commercial

⊜ Open source

⊜ Developed by my institution

Other (please specify)

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12. Do you know if your virtual patient system supports import/export of virtual patients?

⊚ It can import new virtual patients

⊚ It can export virtual patients

⊚ Don't know

Please add any comments below

[   ]

3. Potential use of Virtual Patients

Based on your understanding of virtual patients and thinking about their potential future use, please answer the following questions.

13. Is there a need for virtual patients in your curriculum as a whole?

- Yes
- No

Please explain your answer

14. Do you have a need for virtual patients in your teaching or assessment?

- Yes
- No

Please explain your answer

15. What kind of educational scenarios do you think best fit the use of virtual patients?

16. If time was not a barrier, what would be the main barrier to more widespread use of virtual patients in your institution?

17. What areas of the curriculum do you think are especially relevant for virtual patients?

18. In what discipline areas do you think virtual patients can be a useful learning tool?

- Basic science teaching
- Medical education
- Nursing education
- Dental education
- Other health-related education
- Interdisciplinary education

Other (please specify)

19. How many virtual patients would ideally be required to cover a complete medical curriculum?

- ⃝ Impossible to say, students need access to an unlimited variety of patient cases, real or virtual

- ⃝ Around one virtual patient case per day

- ⃝ Around one virtual patient case per week

- ⃝ Around one virtual patient case per month

- ⃝ It depends upon the educational strategies in curriculum

Please enter your comments

4. A Virtual Patient Collection

Cost estimates for the production of each new virtual patient range from typically €6-35k to as much as €70k. One of the goals of the eViP programme is to create a collection of virtual patients for use across Europe and potentially worldwide. Such a collection could provide cost-effective access to high quality virtual patients and associated e-learning materials. In this context, please answer the following questions.

20. Please rate the following statements

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
I believe access to virtual patients and related e-learning content should be free as a result of centralised educational funding	⃝	⃝	⃝	⃝	⃝
I would be willing to pay personally to access a repository of virtual patients	⃝	⃝	⃝	⃝	⃝
I would expect my institution to pay for me to access a repository of virtual patients	⃝	⃝	⃝	⃝	⃝
I would support my institution reallocating teaching resource funding to implement virtual patients	⃝	⃝	⃝	⃝	⃝
Commercial sponsorship is acceptable for virtual patients	⃝	⃝	⃝	⃝	⃝
I would be willing to contribute virtual patients to a repository	⃝	⃝	⃝	⃝	⃝

21. On what basis do you think that you or your institution would be prepared to pay for virtual patients?

- I would expect virtual patients to be free
- Fixed fee per virtual patient
- Variable fee based upon number of students

How much would you be prepared to pay (in Euros) for a single virtual patient

22. Would you or your institution be willing to use virtual patients developed by others, for example from eViP?

- Yes
- No

23. Were you previously aware of eViP?

- Yes
- No

24. Are you aware of the work by MedBiquitous in the area of virtual patients?

- Never heard of MedBiquitous
- Heard of MedBiquitous but not VP work
- Heard of MedBiquitous VP work
- Involved in MedBiquitous VP work

5. Personal Information

This final section will ask about you and where you work, so the data can be analysed for differences in groups of tell us your email address at the end of this survey.

25. The country where you work

26. Your institution

27. Your role

28. Your area of focus (select all that apply)

∈ Non-clinical	∈ Technology
∈ Clinical	∈ Assessment
∈ Professionalism	∈ Management
∈ Skills	∈ Accreditation
∈ Curriculum	∈ Evaluation

Other (please specify)

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29. The level at which you work

∈ Undergraduate

∈ Postgraduate

∈ Continuing medical education/Continuing professional development

∈ Inter-professional education

30. Your age

∫ɳ <21	∫ɳ 41-50
∫ɳ 21-30	∫ɳ 51-60
∫ɳ 31-40	∫ɳ >60

31. Your sex

∫ɳ Female

∫ɳ Male

32. Your name (optional)

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33. If you would like to receive a summary copy of this survey's results please tell us your email address.

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