



Transforming professional performance through the power of human interaction

Intrigued Journalist Spends 2 Days with GTAs and MUTAs
By Scott George, Clinical Skills USA, Inc.

Elizabeth (Liz) Kulze was sitting at the Thanksgiving dinner table in Charleston, SC, last November, when she became intrigued by a discussion between her brother, a student at the Medical University of South Carolina, and her two parents both practicing physicians. It has not been unusual for her to hear her medical family discuss health matters, but this discussion was particularly fascinating to her. It involved the manner in which physicians are taught how to perform testicular and rectal exams. Her brother, in his second year at MUSC, had just recently been instructed in performing the full male urogenital exam and was surprisingly effusive about the experience. And, more amazingly, his instructor was not a clinician. His instructor was a layperson who possessed medical knowledge strictly limited to the components of the male urogenital exam combined with a vast knowledge of his own body. Her brother described his instructor MUTA (Male Urogenital Teaching Associate) as highly knowledgeable about the male urogenital anatomy and the associated physical examination. But equally as important, her brother was impressed with the ability of this teacher to reduce student anxiety as each student performed the exam on the instructor under his guidance.

Liz's parents who have been practicing medicine for many years described their own awkward and inadequate earlier medical training of such "sensitive" exams on a combination of manikins and actual clinical patients. Her parents expressed regrets that they had not benefited from the "low-risk" "low-pressure" learning opportunity afforded their son.

Liz Kulze, who is a writer and reporter for "Vocative", a recent digital news magazine, decided that this was a story worth telling and contacted me for information regarding both our MUTAs and GTAs (Gynecological Teaching Associates) at Clinical Skills USA, Inc. It was one of our MUTAs who had provided the "guided" learning experience for her brother at MUSC. She was intrigued by this nontraditional method of medical instruction and wanted the public to know what many medical schools, like MUSC, were doing to ensure that their students were competent in performing these highly sensitive and essential clinical skills, including the female breast and pelvic exams and the male testicular and prostate exams.

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My staff was about to embark on our annual gynecological and male urological training at the Rocky Vista College of Osteopathic Medicine in Denver in February for the training of 150 2nd-year medical students, so we invited Liz to join us so she could see, first-hand, the skilled and “guided” instruction performed by both a GTA and a MUTA.



This article represents her experience in getting to know our team GTAs and MUTAs personally over two days and to watch them perform their magic with their students. Please note that despite my efforts to steer the author away from using the title “Medical Model”, I was trumped by the journalist license supporting attention grabbing headlines. Regardless, this article is a great snapshot of the value added to medical student learning by providing this rich experiential opportunity.

See the full article at:

<http://www.vocativ.com/culture/health-culture/live-model-medical-training/>