



Transforming professional performance through the power of interaction

How Do We Know SPs Do a Better Job Evaluating Learners Than Non-SPs?

SP educators are proud of their training methods and ability to produce SPs that can be relied upon to rate learners effectively during events, including high-stakes OSCEs. At times we need to reinforce the fact that trained SPs do a great job if we are given the resources to train them properly.

[In this study](#), Drs. David Dickter, Sorrel Stielstra, and Matthew Lineberry evaluated if SPs are able to rate learner performance as well as trained non-SPs. They found that SP “ratings were significantly more reliable than non-SPs” even though both groups had received equivalent levels of training. More fuel for our fire, though we all wish our SPs were not so routinely referred to as “actors” in such a wide variety of media, even scholarly publications.

Full citation: Dickter DN, Stielstra S, Lineberry M. Interrater reliability of standardized actors versus nonactors in a simulation based assessment of interprofessional collaboration. *Simul Healthc* 10(4):249-55. 2015. PMID: 26098494.

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