



## **Scholarship from Everyday Work; Longitudinal Standardized Patient Project**

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Necessity is the mother of invention, right? So, how do you respond when, year after year, your students report in their evaluations that they had a difficult time discussing unwelcome news in the SP lab because they feel that they will never break bad news to a patient they do not know? How do you respond when students say they had difficulty suspending disbelief in their suicidal patient lab because they walked in knowing that the patient would have suicidal ideation? How do you address a curriculum gap in which your students do not follow a panel of patients over the course of time?

Now, imagine your clinical skills course director says that he wants to create a lab structure in which each student has to see the same SP 19 times over the course of two years. Do you refuse or rise to the challenge?

I was crazy enough to say yes to this wild idea. Yes, it is a logistical challenge, but the benefits far outweigh the administrative headaches. Read on to learn more!

For several years, I listened as my ASPE colleagues encouraged us to make scholarship of the work that we do every day. Our friends on the Grants and Research committee have emphasized that we can ask interesting questions about our daily activities, look at them through a scholarly lens and publish what we are already doing. This resonated with me, since my education in public administration and non-profit management taught me to seek funding for existing work instead of chasing dollars by constantly creating new work.

I took this message back to the director of my institution's Introduction to Clinical Medicine course. I repeatedly told him, "We have to publish our longitudinal SP work." We were not the first to utilize longitudinal patients and we will not be the last. But, we have some insight into how our work is special. Our work was unlike anything we could find in the literature.

We wrote an innovation report and set our sights on Academic Medicine. Several revisions later, we have done it. We did not need IRB approval since we were writing about existing work. There was no statistics involved since it is an innovation. We did not have to conduct a lengthy literature search since the literature on this topic is thin. Yes, the task was daunting. Yes, it was hard intellectual work. But, it was so much more "do-able" than I imagined. And let me tell you, getting a "yes" from that journal was a thrill!

My colleague Dr. Charles Kodner and I are happy to have our Longitudinal Standardized Patient project published in the March edition of Academic Medicine. We are equally thrilled to have it featured in ASPE News!

You can access the full length article by [clicking on the attached PDF](#).