

WORKING WITH THE MEDBIQUITOUS VIRTUAL PATIENT STANDARD

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Summary: MedBiquitous is a non-profit, international group of professional medical and healthcare associations, universities, and commercial, and governmental organizations dedicated to advancing healthcare education through technology standards that promote professional competence, collaboration, and better patient care. Over the last two years a MedBiquitous working group of international educators, informaticians and programmers has developed an XML-based data specification for the exchange and reuse of virtual patients. Virtual patients have previously been notoriously hard to author, adapt and exchange across institutions leading to relatively poor uptake and utility despite the ability to provide high-quality simulation-based learning and address limitations in student access to real patients. Currently going through an ANSI accredited standards development process, the openly available MedBiquitous Virtual Patient (MVP) specification now allows sharing and editing of virtual patients by any compliant authoring or player system. This workshop will introduce participants to the MVP, its architecture, logic and components, the many kinds of VP learning activities it can support and a review of the compliant tools in development.

Objectives: To introduce participants to the MedBiquitous virtual patient standard, explore how participants can use it and look at some of the tools and systems both open source and commercial, for implementing the standard and using Virtual Patients at all levels of medical education and training.

Benefits: Participants will develop an awareness of the many different ways in which virtual patients can be used and reused and the role of this common specification in underpinning this. Participants will have the foundational knowledge necessary for exploring the development of standards-based virtual patients.

Pre-requisites: No prior development experience with virtual patient development is required although participants should be familiar with the concept of virtual patients and their use in medical education. Participants will also be expected to have some awareness or knowledge of XML (extensible markup language).

Intended Audience: Educators, software developers and implementers involved or interested in the use of virtual patients; persons interested in educational standards development.

Instructors: James B. McGee, MD is an Associate Professor of Medicine and Dean for Medical Education Technology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Rachel Ellaway is the e-Learning Manager for Medicine and Veterinary Medicine at the University of Edinburgh. Valerie Smothers is the Deputy Director of MedBiquitous and Peter Greene is the Director of MedBiquitous.

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