

AQUIFER EDUCATOR CONNECTION PODCAST

Episode 6: Aquifer Cases as Standardized Patients

Guest: Sherilyn Smith, Professor of Pediatrics, University of Washington School of Medicine and Chief Academic Officer, Aquifer.

Host: Lynne Robins, PhD, Professor Emerita, Department of Biomedical Informatics and Medical Education, University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, WA.

Description: In this episode, Dr. Sherilyn Smith shares tips for how to think of Aquifer cases in your curriculum as standardized patients, using them as the basis for active learning sessions, and how this paradigm shift can accelerate the development of clinical reasoning skills with pre-clinical and clinical medical students.

Sherilyn's Lessons Learned:

1. The structure of Aquifer cases (history, physical, diagnosis and treatment plan) makes them easy to use as a standardized patient. The cases simulate how patients actually present their histories in a clinical setting. Faculty know how the case will unfold, making it easy to build learning activities around.
2. Thinking of the cases as standardized patients opens up a wealth of learning opportunities. The cases provide a structure for group discussion or to prompt deliberate practice writing patient care notes, coming up with differential diagnoses, creating summary statements, and fleshing out management plans. Students can role play, practice hand-offs to a colleague in the form of another student. You can extend learning with 'what if' questions. You can use the cases for remediation. The options are limited only by your imagination.
3. Using Aquifer cases in this kind of active method helps learning stick for students and enables faculty to assess learners' clinical skills without having to observe them in real time with real patients. Faculty also enjoy having pre-set content to work from, allowing them to leverage their expertise into higher-level discussions.
4. To optimize learning, select cases based on what you want your students to learn and integrate them into your course or clerkship curricula. With pre-clinical learners use a small number of cases and consider having the students work up to a select cut-point, then practice writing a summary statement or a SOAP note. With clinical learners you can extend the learning with more cases and deeper discussions and role plays.

Links to resources mentioned in this episode:

- [Sherilyn's blog post](#)

Theme Music: "Little Idea" by scottholmesmusic.com