



## **TECHNOLOGY**

# Techniques for Implementing a Virtual Patient

## **OVERVIEW**

Medical care delivery is a major industry in the United States. An important component of medical care delivery is a cadre of trained medical care professionals who can diagnose patient conditions and prescribe treatment protocols using cognitive skills. The fewer errors made by this cadre, the better the overall quality of medical care is provided. The present technology relates to medical care delivery, and in particular to improving decision-making skills of medical personnel with systems that stimulate interactions with a patient using a novel virtual patient teaching tool.

## **APPLICATIONS**

Novel teaching aid for improving medical education training.

## **ADVANTAGES**

Offers novel approach to improving medical education. Allows for open-ended inquiry and intervention in a simulated patient. Allows for a wide variety of patient outcomes dependent upon patient condition and student actions. Use as a novel teaching tool.

## **STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT**

At present, the virtual patient system has a working model covering only the anatomy and physiology of the esophagus.

## **R&D REQUIRED**

More R & D is needed prior to final commercial form.

## **LICENSING POTENTIAL**

UM seeks to develop and commercialize via an exclusive or non-exclusive license agreement and/or sponsored research with a company active in the area.

## **CONTACT INFO**

Office of Technology Transfer  
620 W Lexington St., 4th Floor  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
Email: [ott@umaryland.edu](mailto:ott@umaryland.edu)  
Phone: (410) 706-2380

## **Additional Information**

## **INSTITUTION**

University of Maryland, Baltimore

**PATENT STATUS**

US CIP patent 8,317,518 issued 11/27/2012

**LICENSE STATUS**

Available for licensing; Available for sponsored research

**CATEGORIES**

- Software + Algorithm
- Education/Training/Multimedia

**INVESTIGATOR(S)**

Bruce Jarrell  
Sergei Nirenburg  
Joan Marjorie McShane  
Stephen Beale

BJ-2006-061