

# Integrating Student Partnership into the Development of a Virtual Patients System for Chinese Medicine

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## Abstract

As rapid development of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong, it underscores the necessity of strengthening clinical training. Moreover, the use of technology can improve the training during the undergraduate Chinese Medicine learning. Therefore, School of Chinese Medicine (SCM) from the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) has developed an online artificial intelligence (AI) platform “Virtual Patients” for providing an interactive simulator of clinical training in Chinese Medicine. During the development of the “Virtual Patients” System, students were recruited and participated in the process and take a partnership in the project. They were trained to enhance the clinical skills before contacting the patients. By actively involving students as co-creators in the patients’ data collection, clinical diagnostic procedure construction and platform design, students not only can enhance their clinical skills, such as observation, auscultation & olfaction, interrogation and palpation, but also can practice making CM syndrome diagnosis and analyzing the etiology and pathogenesis of disease. Furthermore, they can cultivate a sense of ownership and professional identity among future practitioners. A retrospective online survey targeted at investigating students’ pre-post reported self-efficacy in Chinese medicine clinical practice was conducted after the database establishment. The result suggested that students engaging in the AI platform development partnership scheme generally experienced an enhancement in reported self-efficacy in Chinese medicine clinical practice after the project was completed.

**Keywords:** Artificial Intelligence, Chinese Medicine Education, Innovative Learning, Student Engagement, Student Partnership

