Users of "Otis - the virtual patient" report about their experiences ...

Dr Thomas Spillmann
University Hospital Zurich
Zurich, Switzerland

The most difficult thing in audiometry work is having a proper idea of acoustic processes in the human head. How does cross-hearing occur? What are the consequences of this process in audiometry? In my experience, it takes months of studying the literature and working exclusively with real subjects to acquire a routine which also makes it possible to deal with problematic cases.

Practising with a simulator can simplify and shorten this process to an appreciable degree.

We have succeeded in building up well-structured theoretical course and, thanks to Otis - the virtual patient, to enhance it with practical exercises on virtual patients. I was amazed at how quickly the participants became familiar with the program during the training. It was great that audiometry could be done individually, beginners could consolidate basic knowledge on simple patient cases, advanced students could practice audiometry on difficult ones.

Due to the high demand, we had three courses with 20 participants each and had positive feedback from all of them. A great achievement. We will gladly pass this feedback on to you, thank you!

Anette Slaby
Institute of Phoiarcs and Pedaudiology
Datteln, Germany

Dr Barry Freeman
Nova Southeastern University Florida
Fort Lauderdale, USA

We installed Otis – the virtual patient into our lab computers for use by students in the Doctor of Audiology program at Nova Southeastern University. It is an excellent tool to assist students to learn hearing evaluation techniques. The Otis – the virtual patient assists students who are learning the concepts of masking, increasing their evaluation speed, and integrating diagnostic information for patient management.

With Otis – the virtual patient, students are able to practice what they are learning in the classroom and apply these techniques to the clinic. I highly recommend this system for student training.

Prof. Thomas Linder
Lucerne Canton Hospital
Lucerne, Switzerland

A surgical otologist relies on reliable pre-operative audiometric measurements and especially on correct post-operative audiometry. As these are subjective measurements, they depend on the patient's co-operation and the audiologist's experience.

Thanks to the audiometry training program, the competence and continuing professional training of every audiologist can be improved, thus assuring optimum audiometric quality.

Steve Hutt
Amplifon Professional
Minnesota, USA

Otis – the virtual patient can offer the student/trainee hands-on computer-based training in air conduction, bone conduction, and masking test exercises. Otis – the virtual patient would be an excellent compliment to the student experience that includes appropriate testing of live clients. Exercises can be submitted online for evaluation by a mentor for evaluations of time and accuracy. Additional modules ask for short answer test reports.

This training program is well designed and would be beneficial for most any beginning-level student in the hearing healthcare field.

Ron Anderson
Amplifon Professional
Minnesota, USA

Yee-Foong Stone
Macquarie University
Sydney, Australia

Our students have found Otis – the virtual patient to be very useful in attaining the technical skills for testing. The case bank is particularly helpful in preparing students for a variety of hearing loss configurations prior to their first clinical encounters with clients.

Audiometry is a matter of practice. Correct results can only be achieved with a great deal of practice and a feeling for the activity – and so beginners need a lot of training. That is what Otis – the virtual patient provides and a book doesn't.

Prof. Annette Limberger
Aalen University
Aalen, Germany

Dr Marina Rose

Aston University Birmingham
Birmingham, England

Our students commented how much they like to work with Otis – the virtual patient, and appreciate in particular the instantaneous feedback. This follows best practice for learning by doing, and is of immense benefit.

This has resulted in good student engagement and a much higher learning outcome with better grades for the skills lab modules both for our first and second year students.

I am Jody Thomson, and I work in technical support for a specialist school that teaches deaf children. I have only dealt with Innoforce's technical support team. Through my experience the support I have received has honestly been top-class. I have never waited more than one working day for a resolution to a problem I have raised. On two occasions, I have raised urgent issues (which I should add have been created by myself), and these have been resolved within two working hours. Owing to the support I personally have received so far in my dealings with their support team, I would in all honesty recommend them to anyone!

On a side note. As I do not actually use the software, I would also say that in three years of supporting it, not ONCE have I had a call from a user saying that the software has failed."

Jody Thomson

Mary Hare School
Newbury, England

Nicole Bachmann

Course participant
Delémont, Switzerland

It 'grabbed' me immediately, because I really wanted to go on and do more exercises and send them to you. Communication (correction and answers) with the "tutors" is speedy and straightforward.

The software is easy for anyone to understand, and in addition it's humorous!

I am impressed by the technical perfection of Otis - the virtual patient, and its authentic case examples are in line with the trend towards problem-based teaching in the study of medicine.

Dr Annette Langedijk

Med. Faculty of the University Zurich
Zurich, Switzerland

Dear Mr. Wille, this summer I read your book on audiometry. To my opinion it is perfect! Especially Chapter 7.2 is very close to my experience! So I congratulate you with this thoughtful book. Kindest regards!

Dr. Alexander Gunenkov
National Medical Academy
Moscow, Russia

Otis Edition Pro is an important component of our skills laboratory. It enables our audiology students to practice core audiometry skills in a safe environment and to experience real-to-life case-based audiometry scenarios. Experiential learning in a virtual environment such as this means that students can make numerous attempts and succeed or fail without the real world consequences. Otis is a useful tool to teach students the process of test selection and data collection and allows them opportunities to tackle more complex cases than they may routinely encounter. They also receive feedback from the learning environment which helps them to build their skills and confidence ready for their final practical competency exams. We also recommend Otis (student version) to our students so that they can also continue to safely practice audiometry away from the skills laboratory.

Sarah Riches
Aston University
Birmingham, England

We have been using Otis as a "self-learning tool" in courses for students in Hearing Impairment Education since 2007.

I could see, as the instructor, that students were far more confident in carrying out measurements after practicing with Otis and were aware of the sources of error in pure tone audiometry. These experiences were later applied in audiometry tests on real patients.

Dr. Barbara Bogner
University of Heidelberg
Heidelberg, Germany

There are two possible ways to use this product. On the one hand, in basic training, which is very simple and helpful, since the employees can familiarize themselves with the topic fairly independently. On the other hand, the quality can be kept high, because the experienced employees can practice situations that are rare in practice and can thus be prepared for difficult situations.

The decisive factor with Otis is that both beginners and advanced users benefit and can practice independently. They can be prepared for difficult cases at any time and thus avoid nervousness.

Herbert Jakits
Chartered audiologist
Zurich, Switzerland