

Royal Free Medical Simulation Centre

The Royal Free Hospital is a major NHS London teaching hospital, recognised for its edge in innovation and education. In 2004 we decided to establish a high fidelity screen-based endoscopy simulation centre and acquired a GI Mentor from Simbionix. This has provided a cohort of novice and more experienced endoscopists the opportunity to develop and hone their upper and lower GI endoscopic skills. The modular design of GI Mentor allowed us to add ERCP and GI bleeding modules. The educational impact of this simulator provided the impetus to acquire two LAP Mentors and an ANGIO Mentor and to develop the Royal Free Screen Based Simulation Centre which currently provides formal skills training to both novice and more experienced trainees in laparoscopic surgery, radiology and endoscopy. The Simbionix simulators are an outstanding example of thoughtful design and recognition that the virtual reality experience needs to be integrated with ease of use and automated recording of trainees' metrics which trainers can use to assess progress. The steady flow of new modules from Simbionix constantly adds to the spectrum of users. In the face of continuous use, the simulators have proven to be robust and whenever technical help is required, the service has been outstanding.

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<http://www.rfh-simulator-centre.co.uk>