Standardized Patients (SPs) are often asked to portray complex abdominal physical roles. Many SPs lack the knowledge of abdominal anatomy and physiology, leading to gaps in physical portrayals of abdominal roles. The “gut bucket” can help bridge this gap. This novel training tool can enhance SP trainers’ and SPs’ understanding of abdominal anatomy and physiology leading to more credible and accurate simulations.

The “gut bucket” has organs made from fabric and rests in a standard wash basin. This tool uses visual and kinaesthetic learning strategies to engage the adult learner. All the abdominal organs are to scale, providing realism that helps the learner make the connection to their body and increases their familiarity with the portrayal of abdominal roles.

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Empty tub
43cm x 35cm

Hole
Slits

Hole

Tape in spine.
Diaphragm
(panty hose)

insert through slits

Lungs
Heart (red balloon, filled with barley to fist size)
* for elevation place
Heart on 60cm
dixie cup.

* 5 cm thick

2mm tubing
* Note left is higher than right because of liver.

**Posterior view**
Large Bowel
panty hose and fiber fill (not to scale)

Appendix
(not to scale)
* first 5 ribs go above diaphragm
Spleen

- quite flat & squishy