PPE Portraits are simply disposable portrait picture stickers (4x5) put on PPE (personal protective equipment). Anecdotal pilot data captured during treatment of Ebola showed the PPE Portrait Project helped patients feel connected to their caregivers, and helped healthcare workers feel more like a team and less dehumanized, though this has yet to be formally studied.

From a placebo standpoint, we know that provider warmth and competence are positively associated with physiological health biomarkers. From our standpoint, PPE signals competence; portraits could be one of the only signals of warmth for COVID-19 and potential COVID-19 patients.

Learn more about the original project developed by Mary Beth Heffernan during the Ebola crisis.

**SUPPLIES**
- Camera with 200mm or longer lens
- Computer
- Printer
- 4x5 sticky labels (four per page, matte) and portrait template OR Plain 8x11 paper, scissors or papercutter, binder clips or tape or Post-it notes

**PORTRAIT CREATION**
- Use a plain background
- Use diffuse light (not direct sunlight)
- Subject should look directly into the camera lens
- Frame closely around head—crop the top of head if needed, but not the bottom of the face
- Prompt: “What is the smile you wish your patients could see?”
- Stand back as far as possible and use the zoom function to avert wide-angle distortions

**ORGANIZATION AND PRINTING**
- Save portrait files to be easily retrieved (lastname-firstname)
- Consider a shared drive so others can assist with printing
- Print pictures four to an 8x11 page (ideally same provider on all four; they will need copies)
- Use labels (matte not glossy) OR paper and scissors
- Label organization and integration into donning process is key to consistent and easy use

**AFFIX 4x5 PORTRAIT**
- If it’s a sticker, affix portrait to chest at heart level — offering warmth and care “from the heart”
- If it’s printed on paper, get creative! Tape, binder clips and even Post-it notes will work. (Binder clips at the top have the best hold, but must be disinfected if used again.)

“What is the smile you wish your patients could see?”

Contact: Cati Brown-Johnson PhD • catibj@stanford.edu

If you’d like to hear about more opportunities and be connected with other providers and researchers interested in PPE portraits and the patient-provider connection, please fill out this form.