

## **STUDENTS' USE OF ONLINE LECTURE MATERIALS IN THE BASIC SCIENCE CURRICULUM – A WEB SERVER LOG ANALYSIS.**

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**Introduction:** The information presented in this poster will benefit educators using or developing web-based presentations for a basic science medical curriculum. This study examined online lecture access by a medical class over the entire two-year basic science curriculum and provides insight into how different online lecture formats are used by students.

**Abstract:** Online didactic materials are available for courses throughout the basic science curriculum at WSUSOM. These resources vary in terms of format (downloadable PowerPoint files, streaming audio lectures, or audio and graphics within html) and use within the course (presented only online or as a reiteration of lectures presented live). Considering the effort spent developing online lecture materials, we were interested in how different types of resources were being used by students. One tool that is available to examine web use is a server log containing information on user identity, time and location of use of specific files on the web site.

Server log data for the entering classes of 2003 and 2004 were analyzed using standard log analysis software (*Summary*). Preliminary results indicate that students use online lecture resources selectively. A core group of students (<10%) view or download materials for most or all lectures, while the remaining students use materials from less than half of the lectures. For most classes 10-20% of students have little or no use of the online materials. The exception, of course, are those courses where lectures are only available online. Here we see all students accessing lectures, often more than once. Downloadable complete PowerPoint files appear to be more popular than PowerPoint slides presented in html format. Interestingly, the use of PowerPoint's and corresponding audio files by specific students was not consistently correlated. Another global observation was a trend toward more off-campus use over the past two years, as high-speed access became more common. Additional details from this longitudinal study will be presented.