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<sup>vi</sup> Berwick DM, Nolan TW. “Physicians as Leaders in Improving Health Care.” *Annals of Internal Medicine*. 1998;128(4):289-292.

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## ACCEPTANCE OF PDAS BY MEDICAL STUDENTS: LESSONS FOR FUTURE PHYSICIANS

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### Introduction:

This session is for medical faculty or administrators who are involved in the process of implementing educational technology. The presenters will share their experience with implementation of PDAs into the undergraduate medical education program and invite participants to share similar experiences. Session participants will benefit from collaboration with their peers and develop insights regarding learner resistance to technology that can be used in UGME, GME, and physician training.

### Abstract:

For nearly 20 years, articles describing physician resistance to technology have described challenges that must be overcome to ensure that the next generation will embrace the technologies needed to transform healthcare. Among the reasons purported for physician resistance are lack of training, discomfort with technological innovations, a perceived shift in the doctor/patient relationship, or medical/legal issues<sup>i</sup>. In fact, “the growth of technology” has even been listed as a “threat” for “beleaguered” physicians.<sup>iiiiivvvi</sup>

According to the US Department of Health and Human Services Information for Health Report, <sup>vii</sup> access to more complete and accurate patient data on the spot, around the clock, is necessary if physicians are to promote quality patient care. This will require significant adoption of technology throughout healthcare facilities, with handheld computers as the “point-of-service” interface that ensures accurate, timely patient data is instantaneously entered and available.

As one step in a series of efforts to prepare medical students for entry into technology-based healthcare systems, medical students were given personal digital assistants (PDAs). The intent was that students would use the PDAs to document clinical encounters; access curriculum calendars and information, journal abstracts, and medical reference information; and provide curriculum feedback. The successes and challenges of this project and their applicability to physician acceptance of technology will be presented for discussion among participants. Participants will gain insights from future physicians as to how technology is seen as a benefit and as a barrier and how those barriers can be overcome.

### References:

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