REAL-TIME INSTRUCTIONAL POLLING AND REVIEW USING THE PDA

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As the presence of the handheld PDA becomes increasingly common in medical and health sciences education, an opportunity exists to develop innovative methods of utilizing these devices as instructional tools. One of these methods is the use of the PDA as a means for conducting instant polls within the classroom environment. This session will present the pedagogical rationale for electronic polling as an instructional strategy through the demonstration of a dynamic Flash-based instructional polling and review application developed by the University of Kansas Medical Center. This application is optimized for use on the PocketPC platform.

PDA-based instant classroom polling software offers instructors the ability to conduct real-time electronic polling without the requirement of expensive and maintenance-intensive single-purpose commercial systems. Student responses are totaled and graphically reported back to the class immediately via the Web. This feedback can be used by the instructor to guide review, ascertain progress in meeting instructional objectives, or simply to stimulate further classroom discussion.