

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) WEB SITE FOR KNOWLEDGE
ACQUISITION OF MEDICAL STUDENTS DURING THE PRE-CLINICAL YEARS:
10 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTREAL.**

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Medical students, during their pre-clinical years at University of Montreal, acquire knowledge through problem based learning sessions (PBL), lectures, and selected readings from traditional medical literature and from different sources of the constantly growing field of new technologies. For classes of up to 225 students/year with a tutor/students ratio of 1/8 in small group sessions during PBL activities, many questions are asked concerning learning objectives, controversial topics and to understand complex pathophysiological phenomena. To allow accurate and fair transmission of information for all students, a Web site was developed for these FAQ. Students were asked to read first the information on the Web site and the answers to previously asked questions before sending a new unasked question. They could remain anonymous to preserve from discrimination among peers. Professors in charge of each course were answering new questions twice a week. Accessing the Web site with a password protected from realm and made information and answers reliable and available to anyone entering the site. This exercise needed approximately 1 hour a week for professors but saved them time during lectures or PBL sessions. It also gave coherent messages available for all students and also for tutors of individual small groups. On average, for professors utilizing the Web site, there was approximately 2.5 questions/credit/year. We conclude the Web site for FAQ was useful for both professors and students; it transmitted information more accurately and efficiently