

CAUSE AND EFFECT: TECHNOLOGY AND CURRICULAR CHANGE THE TROJAN MOUSE

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This breakout session is directed at medical school teachers and learners interested in evolving curricular design. The intention is to discuss the impact of the integration of electronic media and technologies on current and future mainstream curricula, instructional design and the process involved in curricular change. The issue of formal evaluation will also be addressed.

Abstract:

The initial integration of medical informatics within schools was often a result of 'early innovators'. Viewing the potential of technology from diverse and individual perspectives, occasionally influenced by clinical information systems encountered in practice settings, with equally interested students, they programmed tools and functions perceived to be of utility to their teaching and practice.

In many cases, these innovators worked intuitively, defining directions, pursuing areas of individual interest and focusing on perceived pedagogical 'value-added', without a global perspective of the potential impact of their work on their school's curriculum, or assent from senior faculty or Deanery.

The development of multimedia learning objects, enhancement of lecture materials, creation of electronic cases, simulations, quizzing systems, evaluation tools, electronic scheduling, communication fora and digital repositories are concrete examples of these pioneering efforts.

The break-out session will focus on the effect of the work of these innovators on medical teaching and learning. Participants will be asked to discuss:

1. The influence and impact of e-curricula on mainstream curricula;
2. The difference between the process undertaken during the last decade and the more formal procedures/methodologies institutionalized in the past specific to curricular change and redirection;
3. The role of the innovators and drivers responsible for this change;
4. The requirement for a global evaluation of new mainstream curricula, e-curricula and curricular strategies emanating from the integration of these technologies.