STUDENT RESPONSE SYSTEMS: PEDAGOGICAL PRINCIPLES FOR LEARNER ENGAGEMENT

Kalyani Premkumar MBBS MD MSc(Med Ed) PhD, Educational Support & Development Unit, College of Medicine & **Cyril Coupal** PhD, ISP Educational and Research Technology Services,University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada

Summary
For learning to occur, students need to be given opportunities to engage in activities that help them create their own meaning, relating new information to what they already know. Active learning strategies provide such opportunities. Active learning is any well-structured, teacher-guided, student-centered activity where the students are engaged with the content. Here, the student is doing things and thinking about it and the task of the educator is to be a 'midwife-teacher' – to help students give birth to their own ideas and not do the thinking for them.

Research indicates that active learning encourages students to be self-directed, collaborative and critically reflective. Retention is increased, easier transfer of new information occurs, interpersonal skills are improved, and motivation is enhanced.
A variety of active learning strategies – from simple to complex, exist and teaching methods can be chosen according to suitability. One of the strategies is the use of student response systems in the classroom.

The student response system is a combination of software and hardware that allows students to deliver almost instantaneous feedback to their instructor. This technology allows instructors to collect information in a timely and efficient way and engage students even in large classes.

In this interactive session, participants will learn to use (and practice using) one such system. The session will begin with a description of student response systems in general and the rationale for using such systems in classes. The different types of response systems currently available will be described. The pedagogical principles for using these systems to inspire learner engagement will be discussed followed by a demonstration of use, misuse and overuse of one type of voting system.

Pre-workshop's Objectives:
At the end of the session, the participant will be able to
* Describe the different types of electronic voting systems available
* Identify a variety of situations where it can be used to engage learners
* Demonstrate the use of pedagogical principles for inspiring learner engagement in specific situations

Pre-Workshop Benefits:
If you are thinking of using audience response systems (ARS) in your classroom or institution, this interactive workshop will provide guidelines on how to use the system.

Using the keypad provided, each participant will be actively engaged in the session as they identify situations where it can be used in class and discuss pedagogical principles for using student response systems effectively. We will be using the hardware and software provided by Turning Technologies, but the principles are the same for any ARS.

Pre-Workshop's Pre-requisites:
No prior experience in use of audience response system is necessary.

Pre-Workshop's Intended Audience:
Anyone interested in using student response systems to enhance classroom teaching. Limited to 24

Pre-Workshop's Facilitators:
Primary Facilitator: Dr. Kalyani Premkumar
Dr. Premkumar is a medical educator, with a specialization in physiology, medical education and educational technology. currently involved in curriculum design, teaching improvement projects and undergraduate medical teaching. She is the Curriculum and Faculty Development Specialist of the College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada and is currently involved in curriculum design, teaching improvement projects and undergraduate medical teaching.
Co-Facilitator: Dr. Cyril Coupal
Dr. Coupal is the Systems Analyst / Project Manager (Instructional Technologies), Educational and Research Technology Services at the University of Saskatchewan. He is currently involved in managing various university-wide technology projects including use of student response systems, WebCT and Lecture Capture software.

Contact Address:
Dr. Kalyani Premkumar MBBS MD MSc (MedEd) PhD
Curriculum & Faculty Development Specialist
Educational Support & Development
Faculty of Community Health & Epidemiology
College of Medicine University of Saskatchewan
Room B103 Health Sciences Building
107 Wiggins Road
Saskatoon SK S7N 5E5, Canada
Tel: 306 966 1409, Fax: 306 966 7920
Email: kalyani.premkumar@usask.ca

Dr. Cyril M. Coupal, PhD, I.S.P.
Systems Analyst / Project Manager (Instructional Technologies)
Educational and Research Technology Services
University of Saskatchewan
Phone: (306) 966-1755
Email: Cyril.Coupal@usask.ca