

USE OF PERSONAL MOBILE DEVICES IN MEDICAL EDUCATION

**Peter GM de Jong, Roel Sijstermans*, Marloes Louwerens,
Jan H Bolk, and Mario Maas***

**Leiden University Medical Center and Academic Medical Center Amsterdam*,
The Netherlands**

During the last decade, computer technology and network facilities have created new and different educational tools. Self-directed learning at any time and any place, 3D visualization tools, games and patient simulations have clearly enriched medical education. Virtual learning environments have been developed to structure the information and materials offered, and Web 2.0 offers us full interactive social structures between students and faculty.

Until recently, delivery of these materials was restricted to workstations in computer labs or at home. Due to this restriction, the integration of computer technology in classic educational environments like lecture halls has not been fully achieved. However, now and surely in the near future, students in higher education will use their own personal devices for numerous tasks in the private as well as the educational domain, and those devices will be wirelessly connected to the internet.

This change is more than a small next step in technology. It will support drastic changes in educational strategies. Students will have access to information and will be connected to each other every moment of the day. In classroom, during lunch and at home. At a lot of institutions new educational concepts using mobile devices are already used in daily practice. Laptops are used in small group settings for team based learning, searching information and presenting results. During lectures in classroom on the spot voting using laptops or PDA's changes one way interaction using a standard presentation into a two way communication tool which motivates and involves the audience with active participation. PDA's used in a clinical setting like a clerkship or internship offer tools like accessing online educational as well as patient care databanks, using portfolios, agenda management and performing on the spot testing. Distribution of podcasts and videocasts create even more new possibilities in traditional environments.

Because more and more students and faculty use mobile devices, the interest in classroom technology is growing rapidly and experiments with new concepts are performed. In this presentation experiments performed in Leiden and Amsterdam will be demonstrated. In the next few years, effort should be focused also on the structural integration of computer technology in education rather than only on developing new and challenging content. Two posters this afternoon will give detailed results and provide an opportunity for discussion.

Dr P.G.M. de Jong, Leiden University Medical Center,
Onderwijscentrum, Room C5-54
PO Box 9600, 2300 RC Leiden, The Netherlands

tel +31 71 526 1995, fax +31 71 526 6857, email p.g.m.de_jong@lumc.nl