RCoA Research, Education & Travel Grants 2015

Award: The Belfast Fund

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Project Title: BLSA Webinars: Interactive Web-based tutorials, simulation discussions and Topic Grand Rounds for Barts and the London School of Anaesthesia.

Project Description:

<u>Aim</u> "BLSA Webinars" is a project aimed at establishing web-based conferencing within Barts and the London School of Anaesthesia (BLSA). By harnessing information-communication-technologies, we will facilitate a discursive dissemination of knowledge, utilising the recognized synergy between technology and pedagogy (1).

Technology enhanced education is an encouraged and established teaching modality (2,3), with an increasing propensity for the use of mobile devices to aid remote learning (4,5). Distance learning overcomes some barriers, but this is limited by a lack of interaction (6). Using a web-based program that can host interactive sessions, compatible with hand-held devices, we will provide remote access to interactive learning and a dynamic shared archive of knowledge. This innovation is intrinsic to the "connectivist pedagogy" of the next generation of distance education (1).

<u>Methodology</u> A web---based platform will be constructed for conferencing using Adobe Connect Webinar™ technology. We have user experience of this program, as well as access to advisors employing it in their learning-management-systems. This technology provides an interface for video conferencing, as well as multiple interactivity options, sharing of documents and archiving of educational material. Sustained development in the use of this tool will be enacted by a team experienced in web-page design and construction, video editing and broadcasting (7,8), as well as education, facilitating and debriefing. BLSA will be the host of each webinar, with potential capacity for 100 participants per session. Each participant, individual or group, will be provided with a login allowing for remote access.

The project is tripartite:

<u>First arm: Short Answer Question (SAQ) Tutorials for BLSA Trainees</u>

This will comprise a fortnightly, facilitated discussion of an example SAQ, led by a tutor assigned to a timetable. Participants will login remotely, contribute, and reflect on their progress.

<u>Second arm: Simulated non-technical skills training and discursive debriefing</u>

Using pre---recorded videos of simulations, we will host discussions pertaining to non-technical skills, a previously demonstrated technique (10), encouraging "reflection-for-action" (11). There will be one session each month, led by a facilitator trained in debriefing.

<u>Third arm: The Anaesthetic Topic Grand Round</u>

Every other month, one centre within BLSA will host a "Grand Round", which can be projected to other departments for the discussion of topics within anaesthesia.

Progress and success of each session will be reviewed by collating feedback from participants as well as data obtained from built-in usage analytics within the software. This information will tailor the project as it moves forward.

SAQ tutorials would commence in October; the second arm in January, and the third in May. This allows each arm to become established and refined by feedback and experience, until all components run in parallel.

Dissemination of each webinar will utilise the BLSA website, "Twitter feed" (7,9), and e-mail. This project has the capacity to facilitate discursive interaction both at a national and international level, and we have brokered interest in other simulation centres and universities, both in the UK and abroad for their participation, once the project is established.

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