

SEA UK Travel and Research Awards

Applicants: Dr Rashmi Menon and Dr Audrey Quinn

Project Title: Audiovisual podcasts as a learning resource for anaesthesia trainees

Project Description

We propose to record video podcasts of topics of the core curriculum in obstetric anaesthesia and complicated obstetrics (cardiac, neurology, sepsis, obesity, maternal critical care) delivered by experts in the respective fields. Our consultant anaesthetists will make the recordings and podcasts will be made available to regional trainees. We will have accompanying EMQs/MCQs with each lecture.

A podcast is a series of digital media files (either audio or video or both) that are released episodically and often downloaded through iTunes subscription. The lists of files are maintained centrally on the distributors' server, and access to these can be regulated. Our podcasts are captured using software called ScreenFlow. **ScreenFlow** from Telestream is a screencasting and video editing software for the Mac OS X operating system. It can capture the audio and video from the computer, edit the captured video, add highlights or annotation and output a range of media forms (eg MP3, mov, m4v) to download onto a PC or any mobile device eg Smartphone.

The podcasts, each of 30-45 minute duration are similar to lectures. These will be uploaded to our intranet website or made accessible via a url (password protected) and be available for trainees and consultants to access 24/7 and will form an important source of interactive learning/reference. If successful, we aim to offer it as a package/idea to the Royal College of Anaesthetists / Obstetric Anaesthetists Association.

We believe that in these times of staff shortages and European Working Times Directive, it is difficult for the trainees to get adequate face-to-face teaching on the delivery suite and that the podcasts will help address this.

We have experience of recording podcasts and presenting them as pre-course learning material for a local PGCertificate course 'Care of the Critically Ill Childbearing Mother' in Leeds University as well as the National NAP4 launch day lectures (available through the RCoA/NIAA website) and have received very positive feedback about the podcasts, as an easy-to-use and interesting learning experience. Candidates especially appreciate the ability to access the lectures at their convenience, and their portability. Podcasts can be downloaded onto platforms such as iphones and can easily be updated by the lecturers.