# Letters to the Editor

# Podcasting as a tool to deliver lectures at higher education pharmacy schools

Dear Editor

In response to "flipping the classroom" comments in the November/December edition, my thoughts were immediately drawn to e-learning. In a tumultuous and dynamic era in higher education where #FEESMUSTFALL has taken center stage, the use of innovative teaching methods is essential. In an era of technology innovation, the use of technology, like podcasting or vodcasting, has become a vital tool when students are unable to attend lectures. Podcasting involves delivering a lecture by recording one's voice or using a PowerPoint with a voice over. It is easy to use and cost-effective to produce.

Blended learning is using both didactic teaching and technology to deliver academic material to students. This learning method would fulfil the needs of both auditory learners and visual learners.

Podcasts have been shown to be beneficial in higher education allowing technology-savvy millennial students to revise a lecture at any time and place. Students who use English as a second language are able to grasp concepts better and students have the opportunity to learn new concepts via a podcast and use didactic teaching time to discuss concepts that they found to be challenging.

Primary health care is now in the limelight and using podcasts or vodcasts can free up time for students to focus on clinical training. Podcasts will provide the theory and scheduled lecture times can be used either at a clinic scenario or a simulated lab to expose clinical concepts that were pre-learned in the podcast. In the case of laboratory-based courses, using podcasts as a preparatory tool will save time. This allows students to be prepped and provides opportunities for more questions during a laboratory practical.

The ideas are endless with videos and pictures available at our finger tips that can be either vodcasted or podcasted. Technology can provide an opportunity to develop more robust and clinically strong pharmacists.

Podcast does have its disadvantages, such as the risk of decreased lecture attendance, technology glitches and computer access for disadvantaged students, but like any new concept one should try and fail rather than not try at all.

Thanking you

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