Virtual Patients: An International Perspective

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Teaching & Learning Resource Centre: Reception & Office / Seminar room
FACS
Formative Assessment Case Studies

- Software System:
  - Interactive Patient Case Studies
  - Web-based
What is a Virtual Patient?

PATIENT SIMULATIONS

REAL
- Actors
- Manikins

VIRTUAL
- WORD of MOUTH
- COMPUTER PROGRAM
- CYBERSPACE Access Internet

VIRTUAL PATIENTS

CASE STUDY Interactive

3-D ANATOMICAL MODEL

LONGITUDINAL STORY
Good VPs are difficult to create.

- Time consuming
- Experts in content
- Skill / Experience to write
- Expensive

Plan material & layout
Write Script for FACS
Add Clinical Data
Upload to Engine (text to webpage)
Test on Student groups
Revise content
One Solution:

- To share cases with other medical schools
Who are using Virtual Patients?

Europe – 4 well developed systems
- CASUS Player
- CAMPUS
- WebSP
- Open Labyrinth

North America – 3 or 4 systems
- McGill University, VP
- Maryland VP
- Pittsburgh University, vpSim
- NetWoRM (CASUS / multicenter / occupational M)

SE Asia – Hong Kong (FACS & VP) & Taiwan VP
CACUS Player
Munich, Germany

- Since 1993
- Linear design
  - Series of web-pages
  - 9 different question types
    - Scoring system
  - 6 different languages
- 1000 cases
  - Including 125 Law Schools cases
CAMPUS
Heidelberg, Germany

- Since 1997
- Clinical Case Design / Linear
  - Classic-Player & Card-Player
    - Case Diagnosis
- Non- Commercial / University funded
- Major users
  - Paediatrics
Play systems

- Design:
  - LINEAR (serial)
    - CACUS, CAMPUS
  - BRANCHING
    - Open Labyrinth

- Navigate the system
  - forward only
  - back & forth
  - loops / network

- Similarities to FACS

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CAMPUS authoring/play-system

- History / Exam
  - Lab. Data
  - Diagnosis
    - Management
      - Outcome
Mrs Pat Hurst enters the consulting room of her General Practitioner’s surgery. Below is a transcript of the initial conversation between her and her GP:

GP: How old are you Pat?
Pat: I am 65.
GP: What’s the problem?
Pat: Terrible backache! Really, really bad.
GP: How long have you had this for?
Pat: I’ve had it for quite a while. I keep thinking that it’s because I’ve done too much work. It’s so persistent now, getting out of bed is a bit difficult.
GP: You’ve had it for a while. Can you put some kind of estimate on that? Months? Weeks?
Pat: I’ve had it for months and months. It’s just one of those things.
GP: As much as a year?
Pat: Could be over a year.
GP: You say it’s persistent?
Pat: Yes.
GP: Day and night?
Pat: Yes.
GP: Is it enough to keep you awake at night?
Pat: Yes, very often.
GP: Is it worse when you’re walking or carrying shopping?
Pat: Yes, definitely, yes.
Can they be shared?

- **YES,**
  - *but there are problems:*
- Need a compatible software system:
- Other issues:
  - Language
  - Cultural differences
  - Ownership
  - Patient confidentiality
Current situation:Quote by Rachel Ellaway

- Developing Virtual Patients is like a cottage industry with many tribes and many designs
Welcome to eViP

Welcome the eViP website! This site is dedicated to bringing you information about the eViP programme, a collaboration between nine universities and MedBiquitous Europe.

eViP aims to create a bank of 320 repurposed and enriched virtual patients. These virtual patients will be available under a Creative Commons Licence.

All virtual patients are repurposed using MedBiquitous Virtual Patient Technical Standards.
eViP Partners

eViP is a collaboration between nine universities located across Northern Europe and MedBiquitous (Europe) who lead the field of technical standards and specifications for e-based healthcare. Click on the institution logo for more information.

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eViP Associates

eViP also works closely with MedBiquitous (Europe), the University of Northern Ontario in Canada, and is co-funded by the European Union. Click on the logos below for more information.
Aims of eViP

- Create a bank 320 reusable VPs
  - Develop Technical standards
  - Repurpose existing cases

- Contact “like minded” centers
  - 1st International Conference
    - Krakow, Poland - June 2009
US Organization that sets:
Technical Standards in Health Care
*Virtual Patient Standards
Developing reusable cases
Repurpose & Enrichment

Dr. A in country B has a case that I would like to use on my course to teach my students

**BUT PROBLEMS**
- The case is written in German not English
- Some of the histology slides need improving
- The picture with a religious cross may be offensive to my Muslim students
- Should I be using pictures that identify the patient?
Repurpose & Enrichment

- Strip the CASE down to basic structure & contents
- Enrich it with new pictures & laboratory data
- Depersonalize & remove any cultural aspects
- Translate into different languages
- Make it available in a bank of cases / VPs
- Conforms to MedBiquitous standards format

I can now import the case into my system and use it
Ownership of cases:

- I have put a lot of time and effort into developing my VP cases.
- How do I get credit for all my hard work?
- Do I want someone overseas claiming credit for my case?
MedEdPORTAL (www.aamc.org/mededportal) is a free peer-reviewed publication service and repository for medical and oral health teaching materials, assessment tools, and faculty development resources.

All copyright and patient privacy issues are addressed during the submission process so users around the globe can download and utilize any and all of the published resources for educational purposes without legal infringements.
News

Notes from the Editor

MedEdPORTAL strives to maintain a comprehensive pool of expert reviewers. At this time MedEdPORTAL is asking the community to nominate reviewers for the following specialty areas: Pediatrics, Anesthesiology, Neurology, General Surgery, Dermatology, and Psychiatry.

MedEdPORTAL Recognizes Published Authors and Peer Reviewers

In the summer of 2009, MedEdPORTAL mailed formal thank you letters to each reviewer who had completed a review within the prior academic year. Based on the positive feedback that was received from this effort, MedEdPORTAL decided to repeat this annually to recognize these individuals and their invaluable contributions to the program. MedEdPORTAL would like to extend our thanks to our reviewers once again for volunteering their time and expertise in order to ensure the quality of each and every MedEdPORTAL publication.

AAMC 2009 Annual Meeting: The MedEdPORTAL Agenda

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) will host its 2009 annual meeting in Boston, MA from November 6-11, 2009. These sponsored sessions will be held at the Hynes Convention Center, Marriott Copley Place, and Sherman Hotel. MedEdPORTAL will conduct sessions which will take place on Saturday, November 7, 2009, in the Hynes Convention Center.

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[Image of ADEA logo]
Why do we need Virtual Patients?

STUDENTS LIKE BOOKS!!

What do VPs provide that books don’t?

Interactive Multi-media presentation Informative

Accessed any-time, any-place, any-where