E-learning: enhancing medical education through the use of IT





Christian Medical College Vellore

PART I

AWARD APPLIED BY:

PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANIZATION

PART II

INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION

PROJECT NAME: "E-learning: enhancing medical education through the use of IT"

INSTITUTE: Christian Medical College, Vellore

AWARD CATEGORY APPLIED FOR: SKOCH DIGITAL INCLUSION AWARD - Health

ADDRESS:

Christian Medical College,

Ida Scudder Road,

Vellore, Tamil Nadu - 632004

India

Telephone: 0416-2282010

Email: directorate@cmcvellore.ac.in

PROJECT COMMENCEMENT DATE: 2006

PROJECT COMPLETION DATE: 2012

DETAILS OF RESPONDENT:

Dr. Sunil Chandy,

Director,

Christian Medical College,

Vellore, Tamil Nadu – 632004

India

Telephone:0416-2282010

Email: directorate@cmcvellore.ac.in

E-LEARNING: ENHANCING MEDICAL EDUCATION THROUGH THE USE OF IT

Brief overview of the project

The Christian Medical College, Vellore (CMC) E-learning unit began as a project with Tufts University, Boston,to enhance the effectiveness of medical education through the use of information technology. This project commenced in the year 2006 and was completed over the next few years. Through the E-learning initiative, CMC has been able to increase the efficiency of curriculum delivery, create locally relevant learning resources, incorporate their use into the curriculum, and spur educational innovation.

Challenges faced before deployment of the project

The challenges faced before deployment of the project were identifying faculty who were interested in Elearning as a tool to enhance learning, identifying the infrastructure requirement (which included dedicated computer systems, servers, and good internet connection), identifying a dedicated area to house this facility, finding funding for the project, and training of faculty and staff.

The objectives of the project

1. To develop and deliver high-quality curricula appropriate and relevant to local health care needs in India.

- To increase CMC faculty's capacity to manage both the technical and content creation components of TUSK (Tufts University Sciences Knowledgebase) – a multimedia knowledge management system.
- 3. To share these resources with secondary hospitals networked to CMC and other medical colleges in India, so as to disseminate knowledge and reach needy areas of the country
- 4. To make the entire curriculum and academic procedures like exams, assignments, patient logs, thesis and assignment, online and paperless.

Description of the implemented project

E-learning has brought about a revolution in the field of education, by allowing learners 24x7 access to high quality educational material, at a fraction of the cost of traditional classroom based teaching. It also allows a more personalized learning experience, by allowing each learner to proceed at their own pace, using the learning style best suited to their needs. This, paradoxically, reduces the time required by learners to understand concepts – a phenomenon known as learning compression. E-learning has also been shown to enhance learners' ability to apply the knowledge gained, and to retain information for longer periods. Over and above all these benefits, E-learning helps save trees by saving paper, thus reducing an educational institution's carbon footprint.

Christian Medical College, with support from the Tufts University School of Medicine and School of Public Health, used the Tufts University Sciences Knowledge Base (TUSK) open source software platform, which was developed by the Tufts University Hirsh Health Sciences Library.TUSK is a dynamic multimedia knowledge management system to support faculty and students in teaching and learning. Using this system, the CMC Vellore E-learning project provides a portal to an integrated body of knowledge through its vast array of online curricular materials and related applications which are accessible via the Internet at <u>http://e-learning.cmcvellore.ac.in</u>.

The E-Learning database contains different types of learning resources. Teachers can directly upload their lecture slides/presentations on the E-learning site using their log-in credentials and rights, and students can access lecture presentations, download them onto their computers, or print them out as lecture handouts. Several videos related to patient examination are available on E-learning to enrich student learning, and students can assess their comprehension of the subject matter through interactive quizzes. As students learn, they can store their study notes online, and save flash cards with relevant facts to aid in topic review at a later date. The portal also posts the class schedule, announcements, instructions, assignments, and discussion forums for students. Since E-learning is available on the Internet, it is easy for faculty to manage course content either from work or home.One of the highlights of the portal is its accessibility through handheld devices, with facilities for live streaming of videos on the e-learning server; thus helping students learn interactively.

Online tests are conducted for some students via e-learning. This simplifies both the conduct and correction of the test as both are instantaneous; besides saving huge amounts of paper. The E-learning unit also regularly solicits student feedback in order to improve on existing teaching-learning strategies.

FEATURES OF CMC'S E-LEARNING PORTAL

ACADEMIC SCHEDULE

| MBB3 2011 ACADEMIC | 30 | HEDULE | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----|
| 🕖 Schedule Help | | | | | | | |
| View: 2012-02-20 to 2012-02-24 | | | | | | | |
| Academic · Accreditation Weekly Lecture Objectives | Pre | vious Week | | | | | |
| Subscribe To This Schedule | | Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday | | | | | |
| Download This Schodula | | 20 Feb 2012 | 21 Feb 2012 | 22 Feb 2012 | 23 Feb 2012 | 24 Feb 2012 | |
| Download This schedule | 8 | ANATOMY | BIOCHEMISTRY Table 17: Regulation of | PHYSIOLOGY | BIOCHEMISTRY Table 19: Regulation of | | Gra |
| Print: This Week · Multiple Weeks | ann | Development of eyeball @ 8:00 | pH @ 8:00 | @ 8:00 | water and electrolyte balance | | |
| | | Anatomy Department | Varghese Biochemistry Department | Physiology Department | Jacob Biochemistry Department | | A |
| 2012 | 9 | PHYSIOLOGY | PHYSIOLOGY | BIOCHEMISTRY | PHYSIOLOGY | PHYSIOLOGY | |
| Prev Next | am | Physiology @ 9:00 | Physiology @ 9:00 | Clinical discussion 7 @ 9:00 | Physiology @ 9:00 | Physiology @ 9:00 | |
| Jan | | | | | | | |
| SM TuW ThF S | _ | Physiology Department | Physiology Department | Biochemistry Department | Physiology Department | Physiology Department | Pł |
| 1234567 | 10 | | | | | | |
| 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 | am | ANATOMY | ANATOMY | ANATOMY | ANATOMY | ANATOMY | |
| 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 | | Hospital Visit | Dissection:Orbit p.104- | Dissection:Orbit p.104- | Dissection: Organs of | Dissection: Organs of | |
| 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 | | @10/10 | @ 10:15 | @ 10:15 | p.171-183 | p.171-183 | |
| 29 30 31 | _ | | | | @ 10:15 | @ 10:15 | |
| | <u>11</u> | | | | | | |
| Feb | Gill | | | | | | |
| S M Tu W Th F S | | | | | | | |
| 1234 | _ | | | | | | |
| 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 | 12 | | | | | | |
| 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 | hun | Hospital Visit | Anatomy Department | Anatomy Department | Anatomy Department | Anatomy Department | |
| 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 | | Tropped Trac | | characterity is operated by | characterity is a particularity | chartering are particular | |
| 26 27 28 29 | | | | | | | |
| | - | | | | | | · |
| | - | | | | | | |

LECTURE PRESENTATIONS

| ((m)) E-Learning | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| CHRISTIAN ME | DICAL COLLEGE | Home Browse All Courses Search Manage Content | | |
| | | | | |
| CUMMUNICATION | ANATOMY > | CONTENT | UPLOA | |
| Announcements | Туре | Document | Authors | |
| My Groups | Ē | Suggested Syllabus | | |
| Schedule Teaching Sites | D | Lectures: 2011-12 | | |
| MATERIAL | Ē. | Lectures 2010-2011 | | |
| Content Ouizzes | Ē. | "Complete" Set of Lectures | | |
| Cases Grades | Ē. | Other Lectures and Teaching Material | | |
| Assignments Patient Logs | Ē. | Previous University Question Papers | | |
| INFO | Ē. | Gross anatomy videos | Tripti M. Jacob | |
| Objectives | Ē. | Histology Slides | | |
| Faculty List Attendance Policy | | Cross Sectional Anatomy | | |
| Equipment List Grading And Evaluation | Ē. | Clinical Anatomy | | |
| Other Reading List | Ē. | Dr.Harsha's Archives - Lecture Slides | Bertha Rathinam; Suganthy | |
| Tutoring Services | Ē. | Dr.Harsha's Diagrams | | |
| | Ē. | Intelligent Design | | |

DISCUSSION FORUM

| Discussions Help Search Blog Messages Options | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Topic Courses / PBL for Dermatology - Cases / 2.1) History of case 2 (154 hits) | 1 🕇 |
| Add Poll Tag Subscribe New Posts Unread Posts Flagged 12 🕞 Stick Lock Move Merge Delete | € |
| 🖃 📴 By @Shalini Nithyanandan Date 2010-02-18 02:51 | |
| What are your impressions? Would you like to do any clinical test? Do you want to examine any other structure? | |
| Reply Edit Delete Attach Flag | |
| 🖃 🕑 By @Laxmisha Chandrashekar Date 2010-02-18 04:00 | ŧ |
| Dear all, history is there. There is an option to zoom you just have to be patient for the image to zoom. please post ur comments promto and do some reading regarding your thoughts. There are some questions to assist you. let all the brilliant minds get into action. you will have a short quiz at th end of the nost please nost ur, answers, cond luck | 1e |
| Reply Edit Delete Attach Flag Report Branch | |
| ■ By NALINI NEWBIGGING Date 2010-02-18 11:17 | Ŧ |
| we check for auspitz's sign | |
| Reply Edit Delete Attach Flag Report Branch | |
| By @Laxmisha Chandrashekar Date 2010-02-18 11:23 | t |
| not bad at all way to go! where are the other guys | |
| Reply Edit Delete Attach Flag Report Branch | |
| By SUSHEEL SUDHEESH Date 2010-02-18 11:50 | ŧ |
| looks like some kind of psoriasis all right We should do the gartage test and also check for auspitz sign@ | |

IMAGE LIBRARY



QUIZZES

| E-Learning | | Welcome - | HELP CONTACT US |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Case Overview A Demo Case Expand Panel | E-learning Home Course - E-Learning Playground | | |
| Case Navigation A Demo Case Vinstructions Vinstructions Vistory Vistory | | ž | |
| Patient Chart Expand Panel My Notepad Make notes as you go along Expand Panel Cost View the cost incurred for this patient care. Expand Panel | Submit Quiz | | |

VIDEO STREAMING



| NOTES |) |
|-------|---|
|-------|---|

| SYSTEMATIC BAG | MATIC BACTERIOLOGY | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | |
| PREV UP NEXT | Туре | Document | Authors | | |
| Keywords 🔹 🕨 | | Staphylococci | Shalini Anandan, M.D. | | |
| Objectives 🔹 🕨 | | The Streptococci | Shalini Anandan, M.D. | | |
| Notes Full Notes | Notes | Close X | us Shalini Anandan, M.D. | | |
| Folder Notes | | | Shalini Anandan, M.D. | | |
| Linked From 🔶 | | | Shalini Anandan, M.D. | | |
| My Folders | | | Mary Mathews | | |
| Print • | | | Shalini Anandan, M.D. | | |
| History | | | Shalini Anandan, M.D. | | |
| Info 🔸 | | | Joy Michael, M.D. FRCPath | | |
| | | Save Notes | Joy Michael, M.D. FRCPath | | |
| | | Spirochaetes 1 - Treponema pallidum | Shalini Anandan, M.D. | | |

FLASH CARDS



Description of the governance practice

E-learning began as a project between Tufts University Boston and Christian Medical College Vellore. Currently, there are 3 programmers and 1 associate research officer. The Programmers work with developing online feedback, creation of new undergraduate courses, creation of username & password for new users, and providing technical support. The associate research officer works with individual faculty to create online educational materials.

Description of the hardware and software products and technology

Recommended:

Server class PC, Redundant power supplies, Multi socket, multi core CPUs, ECC RAM, RAID controller, Remote management card (iLO), 2 internal HDDs, 2 Ethernet NICs, Keyboard and mouse

Processor: Intel or equivalent, multi socket, quad core, 2.0 GHz

Memory - 8 GB

Storage: Dual, 7200 RPM, 100 GB, SATA HDDs, RAID-1 configuration

Network - Gbps Ethernet NIC

Operating System - CentOS 5.8 x86-64 - Linux

Details of coverage of the target population

CMC is a national leader in medical education and is ranked as one of the top medical colleges in India. CMC trains 500 undergraduate medical students and 220 residents and fellows. The E- learning portal is a resource that has been widely used by the students and faculty of the institution.

Another thrust area of the initiative has been to create a technology platform to support educational linkages with mission hospitals in rural India. The goals of the mission hospital project are to create a technology platform to: (a) support clinical training of CMC students at the primary/secondary care level through the mission hospitals and (b) provide educational support to doctors working at primary and secondary level, through guidelines for common problems, referral support for complex cases, and continued learning opportunities.

The use of technology for education is a step forward in bridging the academic distance between the medical college and primary and secondary level providers and provides an opportunity for working towards equitable health care and healthy communities.

Comparison of the pre-deployment scenario and the post deployment scenario - how the solution helped

Accessibility to relevant, concise learning material was a felt need of the students. E-learning provided this solution and enhanced student learning by allowing students to access learning materials at their own convenience and to pace their learning curve. The component of feedback which has been mandatorily implemented after each learning module has helped clinical and para-clinical departments improve on their teaching strategies, thus adding a continuous quality improvement component to the process. The use of discussion forums has created a more inclusive learning experience, encouraging students to learn from each other, and fostering better interaction between students and teachers. E-learning has also indirectly resulted in better

classroom teaching: students can come prepared for lectures, classroom time can be optimally utilized to address specific learning objectives, and students can devote more attention to listening to their instructors rather than taking down copious notes. The benefits of E-learning were highlighted by Joe Varghese et al who carried out a study to assess the impact of E-resources on learning in biochemistry among first year medical students at CMC, the results of which were published in the journal *BMC Medical Education*, and can be accessed at http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6920/12/21#B7

Cost effectiveness of the project

Running costs are minimal as it does not cost any money to upload lectures or videos as learning resources for students. Students can in turn access the learning material at any time, from any location, via internet for free. This makes it a very cost effective and easily accessible learning tool.

Integration with other e-governance projects

Currently we have not integrated with any e-governance projects

Details of cybersecurity measures in the project

There are no security threats since the E-Learning Service runs on the Linux Environment. We use Secure Socket Layer certificate to protectuser information.

Key learning from the project

Information technology can be harnessed to improve the accessibility and acceptability of learning materials, aid in dissemination of knowledge to health professionals serving in areas of need and provide a platform for interaction between students and teachers, at a fraction of the cost incurred by more conventional methods of instruction.

Future road map of the project

The E-learning program is in the process of developing more lectures to ensure that all aspects of the undergraduate medical curriculum are covered and available online. More videos on patient examination and diagnosis need to be created in order to improve the students' practical skills and make learning relevant to clinical care.

The E-learning development/administrative team

Dr. Alfred Job Daniel, Principal of the Christian Medical College is the administrative Head of E-learning. Under him is the Vice-Principal in-charge of undergraduate students who oversees the day to day running of the E-learning project. The project was initiated by Vice-Principal Dr. Anand Zachariah and followed through by the next Vice-Principal Dr. Anna Pulimood. The staff involved in the programming, maintenance and development of the E-learning website are programmers Syamala, Vasanth, Santhiya and associate research officer Roshni. The CV of Dr. Alfred Job Daniel is enclosed.

CURRICULUM VITAE

OF

ALFRED JOB DANIEL

Name

Alfred Job Daniel

Religion

Christian

Qualifications

M B B S D Orth D N B Orth MS Orth

Address for Communications Principal

Christian Medical College Vellore – 632 002

Professor & Head Dept. of Orthopaedics Christian Medical College Hospital Vellore – 632 004

FURTHER TRAINING:

In The U.K.

| Registrar, Dept. of Orthopaedics, | The Royal United Hospital, Bath, BA1 3NG | Sept.98- Sept.2000 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Registrar, Dept. of Orthopaedics, | The General Hospital, Hereford, HR1 2PA | Oct.97- Sept.98 |

AWARDS:

| • | Eminent National Board Examination Teachers Award | Feb 2012 | |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|--|
| • | Best Teacher Award received from The Tamilnadu Dr. M.G.R. | | |
| | Medical University, Chennai | Jul 2012 | |

WORK EXPERIENCE:

| Professor and Head of Orthopaedics | Aug 2010- |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Christian Medical College & Hospital, Vellore, India | Till date |
| Senior Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, Ministry of Health, | Aug 2008- |
| Sultan Qaboos Hospital, Salalah, Oman. | Aug 2010 |
| Professor & Head of Orthopaedics, | Jul 2007- |
| Christian Medical College & Hospital, Vellore, India | Aug 2008 |
| Professor of Orthopaedics & Consultant Surgeon, | Jan 2001- |
| Christian Medical College & Hospital, Vellore, India | till date |
| Consultant Surgeon in Orthopaedics, | Mar 1991 - |
| C M C Hospital, Vellore, India | Dec.2000 |
| Registrar, Dept. of Orthopaedics, The Royal United Hospital, | Sept.98- |
| Bath, BA1 3NG .,U.K. | Sept.2000 |
| Registrar, Dept. of Orthopaedics, The General Hospital, Hereford, HR1 2PA., U.K. | Oct.97- Sept.98 |
| | |

ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

| PRINCIPAL | from Sept 2011 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| VICE PRINCIPAL (Post Graduates) of our College | 2002-2006 |
| REGISTRAR (Admissions and Academics) of our College | 2007 |
| EXAMINER 1. Dr. MGR Medical University, for Master's degree in Orthopaedics | 2002,2003, 2010,2011 2012,2013 |
| Dr. MGR Medical University, for Diploma in Orthopaedics | 2003, 2006, 2012 |
| Dr. MGR Medical University, for Bachelor's Degree in Occu. Therapy | 2001 |
| Rajiv Gandhi Medical University, Karnataka for MBBS | 2003, 2008 |
| Dr.NTR Medical University, Andhrapradesh for Master's Degree in Orthopaedics | 2004 |
| | |

Christian Medical College

Ida Scudder Road, Vellore, Tamil Nadu - 632004 India Telephone : 0416-2282010 Email: directorate@cmcvellore.ac.in