



Application of the iPhone and iPad in Medicine and Health Science Education

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Over the past two to three years, many in higher education are eager to see how mobile technologies will transform higher education and the practice of medicine and allied health. With the release of the latest versions of the iPhone and iPad, a growing number of educators are beginning to examine how and why mobile handheld communication devices can provide added value in teaching and learning. Today's students are skilled practitioners of mobile devices and social networking; students use technology in ways that allow them to do what they want, anytime, any place and across all geographical boundaries. Doctors, nurses, health professionals and faculty members have yet to become familiar and engaged in using the handheld devices to share, engage and connect in meaningful ways with their patients, staff, colleagues and students. New forms of communication, collaboration and engagement in both the classroom and clinical settings, create new frontiers for collaboration across disciplines and provide us with new opportunities for academic innovation, collective intelligence and knowledge creation. We need to explore the nature and characteristics of these mobile devices with a particular emphasis on collaboration and social media tools. The purpose of this oral presentation is to describe how and why mobile technologies such as the iPhone and iPad are being integrated and deployed in American and Canadian universities and hospitals. More specifically, it will address the significance of mobile devices as tools for communication and collaboration and will focus on how mobile learning and social networking will become significant tools of change for medicine and health science education.