

## **Report on Educational Technology Summit**

The GIR Educational Technology Summit was held January 10, 2008 in Houston, TX. Response from members was overwhelming. A diverse group of members came together to engage in a national conversation on infrastructure and technology standards around medical education technology. While there are many groups supporting and encouraging innovations and best practices around medical education technology we saw the need to bring together technologists to discuss the infrastructure needed to support education as the use of technology continues to expand in this area.

The program focused on three areas where availability of technology standards is limited and presenting challenges to design, delivery and sharing: virtual microscopy, e-portfolios and learning management systems. Also discussed was the concept of recommendations for technology literacy standards for medical students of the future.

### ***Action items from the Educational Technology Summit:***

#### **Learning Management Systems:**

- Create a working group to develop a best practices document on LMSs to support medical education predicated on these basic principles: All students must retain access to all courses they have already completed in Medical School for all 4 years.
- Integrating medical education portal into LMS/content systems
- The LMS should support some form of collaboration, preferably technology that supports team projects

Action:

- 1) Draft of best practices document prepared for discussion at May meeting
- 2) Final recommendations for the November annual meeting

#### **Eportfolio:**

- Create a working group that will act as a voice for undergraduate medical education in national eportfolio discussions. This would include identifying attributes that are unique to UGME as well as needs particular to the medical school environment: self-reflection and self-assessment, and would be a good opportunity for individual mentoring.
- User-friendly, portable, accessible via the web anytime, anywhere, and available throughout the life of a student/physician. The key to making e-portfolios successful is to make the system relevant and meaningful to the students, utilize the system to demonstrate student achievements, and ensure that the system is efficient with respect to time and effort.
- Include both core and optional elements divided into different sections (e.g., institutional expectations, personal expectations and activities, professional expectations) that correspond to different elements of the students' overall education. These various elements should link to the learning management system for the duration each student is in medical school.

- Legal concerns (confidentiality, privacy, etc) and questions concerning content and access. This also needs to reflect medical schools role in protecting student privacy (FERPA)

Action:

- 1) Draft of unique issues prepared for discussion at May meeting
- 2) Engage in national portfolio initiative

Virtual Microscope:

- Create a working group to develop these ideas:
  - -central repository of virtual microscopy images that share a common, open file format. (Role of MedEdPORTAL)
  - -viewer for the slides that has an open API for individual university modification. Slides should be viewable from anywhere, any time.
- -Create a schema for indexing and searching digital slides

Action:

- 1) Draft of existing resources and formats discussion for May meeting
- 2) Working plan for national standards group by November meeting.

Technology Literacy Standards

This conversation noted that other groups are looking at student competencies and that a more effective and needed role would be to develop resources to help faculty utilize technologies appropriately in the curriculum.

Action:

- 1) The GIR will look for opportunities in its current professional development offerings to incorporate this topic.

Work group to address the above defined issues will be forming in the coming weeks. If you or someone in your organizations would like to participate please send an email to Morgan Passiment at [mpassiment@aamc.org](mailto:mpassiment@aamc.org) with your contact information and indicating which work group you would like to join.