

Section: E-Learning und Simulation

ID: 87

Abstract-Title:

THE INTERNATIONAL ORAL HEALTH NETWORK AND EACADEMY

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Abstract-Text:

Key issues:

The WHO Oral Health Programme (ORH) has identified e'Health as a powerful tool for supporting the implementation of health policies, increasing knowledge and skills of public health professionals, empowering both patients and health care personnel, resource mobilization, as well as maximizing the use of scarce community resources. International Oral Health e'Academy (IOH e'Academy) has been established by WHO ORH to create a global communication forum for oral health, in order to strengthen capacity in under/post graduate education, create opportunities for international partnerships, facilitate professional exchange and bridge gaps in research and knowledge across countries. International Oral Health is a grouping of significant oral diseases and conditions important in global public health. It aims to promote the Common Risk Factors approach in managing oral disease control and health promotion at local, regional and national levels in both developing and developed countries. Objectives / Projects:

- a. Facilitate translation of knowledge for greater equity
- b. Ensure that evidence-based practices are applied to solve key public health issues
- c. Build capacity in training and support epidemiological surveillance systems

The IOH e'Academy uses a triad of information and communications technologies, the Medical Schoolbook (MSB) programme developed by the Department of Information Technology, Hannover Medical School (MHH) as its Content Management System, the Elluminate Live communications programme, as its web-conferencing platform, a member of the Widernet project / e'Granary Digital Library; to distribute and deliver the IOH e'Academy to communities who do not have access to the internet.

Meeting challenges:

The IOH e'Academy uses the Medical Schoolbook content management system and a dynamic website, which offers an ideal platform to combine an inter- and multi-disciplinary information resource, with a problem orientated learning pathway.

The MSB self-authoring function allows health professionals to perform real-time updates, editing and content refinement, which can be undertaken independent of geographical location or local time.

The MSB offers both a hierarchical and semantic navigation of the content, which allows the user/learner to browse in a traditional systematic or non-linear way.

A comprehensive set of multimedia applications can be uploaded, which allows the user/learner to view the subject material in different formats.

The Elluminate live communications programme was successfully tested by the WHO for its Knowledge Management for Public Health online conference in April 2006. The

conference connected thirty five institutions from both developed and developing countries. Elluminate live has proved very suitable for use in countries with low bandwidth, as it is able to support a range of communication levels. Elluminate Live is currently used for the IOH e'Academy peer review group.

The eGranary Digital Library provides millions of digital educational resources to institutions lacking adequate Internet access. Through a process of garnering permissions, copying Web sites, and delivering them to intranet Web servers in institutions in developing countries, millions of multimedia documents are delivered, that can be instantly accessed by patrons over their local area networks at no cost.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The IOH e'Academy is a global electronic communication and learning platform, which uses a range of information technologies, delivery vehicles and e-communication systems to share knowledge for health with greater equity and to ensure that the best available knowledge is applied to address key health policy issues.

A peer review process operating on the single platform of the e'Academy can respond rapidly and flexibly to requests from users and learners. International peer review plays an important role in the formulation of best practices.

The complex nature of global public health issues requires that the WHO ORH offers an organic and interactive web based information and training platform.