

RCPE Evening Medical Updates

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Evening Medical Updates are a series of free, monthly lectures on the Top Medical Presentations and Emergency Presentations as defined in the general internal medicine curriculum, run by the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. They are primarily aimed at doctors in training and medical students but attract a wide audience including hospital doctors, GPs, nurses and other healthcare professionals. Consisting of three half-hour talks by expert speakers, they run from September to June and attract two CPD credits. Sessions take place in the Edinburgh College and are live webstreamed to over 80 venues in the UK and further afield.

The programme is run by the RCPE Trainees & Members' Committee and has existed in one form or another since 2001. From 2011–2013, NHS Education for Scotland funded the live broadcast of these events to up to 19 hospitals and medical schools in Scotland, particularly in more remote areas, as well as a small number in northern England, Wales and Northern Ireland. These broadcasts enabled participants to interact live with the speakers at the Edinburgh College, but funding was not sustainable. Further, there was no opportunity to expand the programme and make it available to trainee doctors and students in areas not covered by a video linkup. The programme was becoming increasingly popular because it supports the delivery of ongoing medical training; is curriculum-related; free and delivered at a convenient time (6.30 pm one Tuesday each month). The challenge therefore was to expand availability to a much greater number of doctors and students without additional financial burden.

Using modern technology, we introduced live internet webstreaming in 2013. All that is required at the external venue is a meeting room with a big screen and laptop with internet access. Before the event, a URL is sent out by the College and when this is typed into an internet browser the venue receives a live transmission. This is free to the venue and requires no out-of-hours IT staff to be present, once the stream has been tested (this can be done during normal hours). However, a further challenge arose which was the interactivity issue. Unlike videoconferencing, the live webstreaming option is one way only, so to enable participants at live webstreaming sites to ask questions, we set up a Twitter account: #rcpeEMU. Incoming tweets are monitored by the Chair and passed on to speakers so that they can provide answers in real time.

For those who cannot attend the Edinburgh College or a linked site, other options are available. You can either

watch the talks individually via your own computer (although there is no CPD certificate for this, but participants can list the talks as self-reflective learning for their CPD portfolio), or you can access the talks retrospectively via the Online Education Portal of the RCPE website. Membership of the College is required for this, but it is free for medical students and foundation year doctors.

Participation in the EMU programme has almost quadrupled from 24 sites, including Edinburgh, in December 2012, to 79 in June 2015. The number of delegates accessing the EMUs annually has risen from 3,580 in 2013 to 5,333 in 2014, and is well on target to be significantly higher in 2015.

With the combination of videolinked sites, the use of live webstreaming and social media, the effect has been to considerably widen the geographical and professional reach of this programme, enabling curriculum-based learning to be available to core target audiences free and at the point of need.

The fact the talks are CPD-accredited and broadcast at a convenient time of day is of major importance to those attending. We know this from delegate feedback received after each event, which is then made available to the Trainees & Members' Committee, speakers and chairs. Likewise attendance numbers are monitored and logged using electronically-generated lists which provide the attendance data.

EVENING MEDICAL UPDATES

- make curriculum-based, CPD-accredited learning easily accessible to medical professionals at every stage of their career
- deliver relevant medical education free, locally and at a convenient time
- use modern technology and social media to reach a wider audience

**all figures correct as of August 2015*

For further information about the programme, contact Felicity Garvie – f.garvie@rcpe.ac.uk

If you would like to set up a link in your own hospital or medical school, contact Josiane Kirk – j.kirk@rcpe.ac.uk