" Making it real: Using interactive simulated patients for an online acute clinical oncology module in order to enhance the community of learning experience "

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Abstract

The establishment of a meaningful learning environment is a challenge for those who develop multi-professional, online, healthcare courses. This presentation will outline the steps taken to engage students registered onto a wholly online acute clinical oncology module, into the community of learners (Lave & Wenger 1991). Although online discussion fora with generic themes promoted exchange of knowledge and ideas, module review highlighted limitations in its scope and impact. Consequently, a decision was made to develop an interactive simulated patient, based on a typical acute oncology presentation but with alternative treatment pathways, encouraging students to share and discuss their patient management selection.

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