Research Theme
Health Systems and Population Health

Research Project Title
eLearning for Health Care Professional Education

Principal Investigator
Associate Professor Josip Car, LKCMedicine

Project Description

Background
21st century health systems need to have the capacity to respond to populations’ needs, while at the same time anticipating future scenarios and effectively planning for evolving requirements. According to the World Health Report of 2006, 57 countries face critical health workforce shortages. The WHO estimates that 2.4 million physicians, nurses and midwives and 1.9 million health aid workers, pharmacists, technicians and auxiliary personnel are needed to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MGDs) set for 2015.

Developing countries are particularly affected by the “brain drain” phenomenon due to the migration of students and trained healthcare workforce, which exacerbates their already limited resources. This is further aggravated by the inadequacy of some healthcare training programmes, which fail to equip health workers with the skills, competencies and experience needed to satisfy the changing health needs of the population they are to serve.

eLearning appears as one of the potential solutions, which uses electronic media, educational technology and information and communication technologies (ICT) as teaching and learning tools, and has an under-exploited potential to support health workforce capacity building in different contexts, empower health workers to take charge directly of their own competency development, and to enable them to play a full role as change agents in addressing the challenges we will face in the 21st century. eLearning is moving from textbooks in electronic format to a truly interactive medium that can be delivered to meet the educational needs of students and postgraduate learners. Computer technology can present reliable, reusable content in a format that is convenient to the learner. It can be used to transcend geographical boundaries and time zones.
Proposed work

The aim of this project is to advance the field of elearning for Health Care Professionals education. Its objective is to understand the following – its current use in education settings in both developed and developing countries, effectiveness, and cost effectiveness followed by the design of eLearning educational interventions.

This research work is highly multi-disciplinary, and will take the candidate through the fields of clinical sciences, education/ andragogy (adult learning), information technology, behaviour change psychology, sociology, economics and modern epidemiology of chronic diseases. The candidate will also experience and undertake other fields in population health, including the eHealth research, trials methodology, statistics and multi-method approaches. The candidate will also get involved in stakeholder engagement, including research teams across LKCMedicine; healthcare providers including the National Healthcare Group (NHG), Singapore; industry partners; and local/ global healthcare policy makers.

Contact Us

If you have questions regarding this project, please email the Principal Investigator.

Associate Professor Josip Car

josip.car@ntu.edu.sg