

Title of Project: Making of the iAttending: Bringing the chalk talk into the 21st century

Author: Anoop Agrawal, M.D.

Needs/Measureable objectives:

Educational trends are indicating a significant shift in the upcoming generation of learners. Known as generation C, they are learning via technology and continuous connectivity to the internet. They are accustomed to engagement via mobile devices and identify themselves as multimodal learners, i.e., preferring visual, auditory and kinesthetic.

In academia, bedside rounds have changed little over decades. Some educators have recognized learner trends and employ portable whiteboards to recreate 'chalk talks' on rounds. Now tools such as the iPad, offer the opportunity to propel medical education into the 21st century to meet the growing needs of generation C.

Description of program/project:

For the past twelve months, I've been conducting rounds with an iPad. Equipped with an array of whiteboard apps and access to cloud-based storage sites, I instantly summon images, articles, or diagrams that aid me in teaching or sharing a clinical pearl as it applies to the clinical scenario. I have developed teaching scripts for commonly encountered scenarios with curated diagrams and pathophysiologic pathways for formal teaching moments. In both of the above scenarios, I draw, annotate on slides, and animate objects to emphasize key concepts. The pearls became dynamic rather than abstract. Learner feedback repeatedly cited the iPad as a key factor in their enjoyment and increased engagement on rounds.

Discussion/reflection/lessons learned:

These experiences encouraged me to conduct a regional workshop to teach educators best practices on using the iPad and apps on rounds. Participants agreed the possibilities to enhance teaching and increase engagement were enormous, but the time to develop the interactive scripts seemed steep for some. Introducing the use of technology in this manner was the first step. For this innovation to reach its full potential I'm working to create an app with preloaded content and teaching scripts which educators can easily utilize and adapt to their needs and their learners.