



## CAME-ACEM Voice/Voix

### **There's a Pediatrics App for That!**

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Support materials for pediatrics in undergraduate medical education? Yes, there's an app for that! With the touch of a screen, the free McMaster Pediatrics Clerkship app (available as a website at <http://apps.machealth.ca/pedsclerk/>) can bring important educational resources to the fingertips of teachers and students in pediatric clerkship programs.

There are a vast number of apps that address medical knowledge, but there are few that share the objectives that form the foundation for medical learners. The app draws on the objectives from the Canadian Undergraduate Curriculum in Pediatrics, 'CANUC-PAEDS', a comprehensive pediatrics curriculum that is the result of a collaborative effort from pediatric educators from medical schools across Canada, the Pediatric Undergraduate Program Directors of Canada (PUPDOC). This means that although some aspects of the app are McMaster-specific, it is applicable to pediatric clerkships across Canada.

First introduced in 2014, students use the app as a springboard for focused group discussions to help them master the requisite skills and knowledge as they rotate through different ambulatory and inpatient pediatric services. The app can also help faculty, particularly on distributed programs. The 6-week McMaster pediatric clerkship takes place across 3 campuses, with teaching by community preceptors throughout Southern Ontario. Given that all faculty and residents who supervise or teach medical students need to be familiar with the educational objectives of the course or clerkship, the app provides a ready reference for the many faculty on the McMaster pediatrics clerkship.

The concept of the app was a team effort that included members of the McMaster Pediatric Undergraduate clerkship committee; Kim Babin program co coordinator, Drs, Belostotsky and Breakey with technical development led by Dr. Levinson, Director of the Division of e-Learning Innovation and his team. We are planning to evaluate the web app in 2016, exploring whether clerkship teachers are aware of the app (after it has been widely advertised) and whether they are using it to facilitate objective-directed teaching. We also aim to assess to what extent students use the app to guide their learning. The app will remain an public resource and if found to be useful can be used as a model for other clerkships across programs and disciplines.

The web-based app is available here: <http://apps.machealth.ca/pedsclerk/>