



CAME-ACEM Voice/Voix

‘Surgery 101’: using podcasting and online video to teach the world about surgery – Dr. Jonathan White

In 2008, the Department of Surgery at the University of Alberta developed a podcast series called ‘Surgery 101’ to meet the needs of medical students learning surgery. Episodes covering common surgical topics were distributed worldwide free on iTunes, MedEdPortal and <http://www.surgery101.org>

Phase 1 of the project focused on the production of audio podcasts. Episodes were developed for the undergraduate surgical curriculum according to the basic principles of instructional design. As of August 2014, 130 episodes had been produced and collectively they have been downloaded more than 1.4 million times worldwide. We have also created a Surgery 101 app for iPhone, Android and Windows phones. One hundred and twenty episodes have been peer-reviewed and published on MedEdPortal.

Phase 2 of the project has explored the use of online video in surgical education, in collaboration with the Digital Media team at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) drawing inspiration from sources in film and television, including the Muppets, Star Trek, LEGO and The Walking Dead. We have now produced over 30 surgical educational videos which are available free at <http://surgery101.org> and on YouTube.

Surgery 101 is the only free surgical teaching resource of its kind that exists at the moment, and students can access it at any time in any place using a cell phone or other mobile device to listen to a specific episode right when they need it, before they see a patient, or before they come to the Operating Room. Instead of teaching one student at a time, Surgery 101 allows experts to teach thousands across the world.

Podcasting technology has allowed us to disseminate the expertise of our Department of Surgery worldwide to meet the needs of medical students and others who listen to ‘Surgery 101’. We intend to continue to develop novel online educational resources to help the world learn about surgery.