



CAME Voice/Voix

MedBiquitous in action

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MedBiquitous: it's a name that many have heard of but few have directly engaged with. The MedBiquitous Consortium is the only accredited developer of information technology standards for healthcare education and quality improvement in the world. Although it is a US-dominated group, there are a number of Canadians active in MedBiquitous including Craig Campbell (from the RCPSC) the incoming Board Chair, and Tim Willett (of SIM-one) the co-chair of the Competencies Working Group. I've been attending the annual MedBiquitous conference for a number of years and have found it a consistently rewarding and often surprising meeting in terms of exploring the future of educational technologies in medical education. Yes, there is an active minority of nerds there, but it's really about what you can do with these standards, see

http://www.medbiq.org/std_specs/standards/index.html for more on this.

My own interests have greatly benefited from collaborations arising out of the virtual patient standard and the portability of content afforded by this standard. But for me, the hottest "activity" these days is around the Activity Report and the Competency Framework. Central to this is the TinCan/Experience API that allows for simple generation of BIG data from all sorts of educational activities. It's all about information flows, not static objects. Analytics of activity streams are showing fresh insights about Learning, which is not a "thing" to be Managed by a System.

The MedBiquitous conference dynamic is excellent: big enough for a variety of viewpoints, small enough for effective networking, with a high recidivism rate (but no time off for bad behaviour)! This really helps to generate active collaborations around medical education research, and effectively connects those who are highly active in these areas. This year featured data warehousing, 'technology and the extended mind', and the real skinny on MOOCs.

We got the inside scoop from a senior Apple Exec about what is happening with HealthKit and ResearchKit, which will be of great use to medical researchers. This will be fully open-source and not proprietary. It has a remarkably robust security model, which Edward Snowden tells us that the NSA is not very happy about. It was notable that in the latest data exposed in the ironic hack of Hacking Team, a disreputable purveyor of security products, iPhones were one of the few devices not yet hacked by their dubious software exploits.



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Arm-twist your Deanery to support MedBiquitous as an organization. They do good work and we all benefit from the standards and the collaborations that arise around them. And come to the conference in April 2016: three words – Baltimore crab cakes – mmmm!

MedBiquitous: <http://www.medbiq.org>

MedBiquitous 2015 meeting presentations: <http://medbiq.org/conference2015/agenda>

Experience API (xAPI): <http://tincanapi.com>

Apple Research Kit: <https://www.apple.com/researchkit>