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62 Interactive Live-streaming: A Novel Twist to the Traditional Educational Conference

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Introduction: The weekly educational conference is the centerpiece of many Emergency Medicine residency programs. Unfortunately, resident physicians may be unable to attend conference or educational activities due to duty hours, off-service rotations, etc. Additionally, scheduling faculty lecturers for pre-determined conference dates is often difficult, particularly for out-of-town guest faculty.

Educational Objectives: We sought to increase lecturer and resident participation in our educational conference by live-streaming it for online viewing, providing a faculty-moderated chat forum, streaming pre-recorded faculty lectures with online faculty available for discussion, and recording and archiving the conference for later viewing for asynchronous learning purposes.

Curricular Design: Although we utilized a professional recording studio, a simple setup involving a camcorder, microphone, and livestreaming software, such as Wirecast 5.0, will suffice. An online livestream and chat forum, such as livestream.com, provided the software platform through which residents and faculty participated in the online forum. The residency program director moderated the forum to help facilitate both online and live discussion. One faculty lecturer, who was out-of-town for that conference date, pre-recorded his lecture and was available online that day for discussion. All live-streaming was recorded, edited and immediately made available online.

Impact: A survey of online residents and faculty participants was positive. Of 23 residents who were unable to attend conference due to vacation, off-service, or duty hours, 8 (35%) participated online. Seven faculty members and one guest faculty member participated online as well. All found this resource useful and wanted to make this option available on a regular basis. Live-streaming, combined with moderated online forum discussion, increased resident and faculty participation and may be a useful adjunct to educational conferences.