Australian ePortfolio Symposium 2009

Tuesday 10th February
Track Session:

Health Sciences
eMed Portfolio: tracking graduate attributes in an aligned medical curriculum

Chris Hughes
University of New South Wales

Abstract:
The six-year undergraduate medicine program at UNSW is outcomes based, with eight graduate capabilities (attributes) that have expectations of student achievement specified for each two-year phase of the program. eMed Portfolio is an online system designed to support the alignment of assessments and capabilities in this curriculum. The system holds information on the assessment options available to students in each subject, and it supports the submission and assessment of student work. It records the grades and feedback awarded for each assessed item against the relevant graduate capabilities, and produces listings by capability that provide an evidentiary base for a reflective portfolio that is summatively assessed at the end of each two-year phase of the program. The eMed Portfolio system forms the core of the assessment system used in the undergraduate medicine program.

Chris Hughes
University of New South Wales

Dr Chris Hughes is a senior lecturer in medical education in the Office of Medical Education and the School of Public Health and Community Medicine at UNSW, where he is the convenor of the first phase of the medicine program. Chris has a multidisciplinary background in the sciences and the humanities, and a doctorate in adult education. He has over 20 years of experience in curriculum and teaching development. Since 2000 Chris has been working on the design and implementation of the Medicine Program at UNSW, focusing on the program and course structure, assessment and information technology aspects. Chris teaches medical ethics and clinical supervision, and contributes to a range of courses focused on teaching and learning issues. His research focuses on issues in online and medical education. Chris is currently working on projects involving ePortfolios, virtual patients and threshold concepts.
Using an ePortfolio to demonstrate competency in acute care skills

Professor Harry Owen, Sue Skinner, Chris Carapetis, Kris Hayres and Cyle Sprick

Flinders University

Abstract:

**Background:** All health professionals should be able to provide Basic Life Support (BLS) but most new medical graduates are not confident they are competent to provide acute and emergency care. Also, BLS trainers often depart from the curriculum and pass trainees even when performance is poor. We believed that resuscitation education and training could be improved through student ownership of learning, expert feedback on assessment, reflection on skills performance and an expectation that the skill set would improve over time.

**The Project:** Students at Flinders now use an ePortfolio to track acquisition of acute care skills. There are 4 simulation-based BLS teaching sessions in Year 1 and a formal assessment based on resuscitation of an unconscious in a hospital corridor. A videorecording is made of all assessments and students who do not perform all steps appropriately receive individual feedback and repeat the assessment. Students who demonstrate competence get a copy of the video to upload to their ePortfolio and reflect on their performance.

**Observations:** PebblePad has been a good platform for this project. Generally, students do not revisit assessments they pass but this misses an opportunity for improvement. Students were able to identify areas or performance that could be improved and how this could be achieved. The published video contributes to quality assurance for the program. Several students have reported providing BLS in hospital and the community suggesting this ePortfolio project is having the desired outcome. The initiative is being extended to cover Advanced Life Support and related skills.

Harry Owen

Flinders University

Harry Owen is Professor of Anaesthesia and Pain Medicine at Flinders University and Director of the School of Medicine Clinical Skills and Simulation Unit. Simulation is used extensively at Flinders to help students acquire important diagnostic and life-saving skills. There are two fixed simulation facilities (one in Adelaide and one in Renmark) and a mobile facility (SIMUL8). Also, students have placements all over SA and NT where they may have extra training and the chance to use these skills. Harry is now co-ordinating deployment of the PebblePad ePortfolio to ensure all students develop competence in essential emergency skills and to provide support for students becoming expert and proficient. Harry has an active simulation R&D program and published widely in medical education and clinical discipline journals and presented at several national and international meetings.
Integrating e-portfolio into undergraduate health courses: An evolving story

Associate Professor Robyn Nash and Dr Sandy Sacre
Queensland University of Technology

Abstract:
As part of a University-wide Teaching and Learning project focussing on ‘Transitions Out’, the Faculty of Health began work in 2008 on building capstone experiences into the final year of its undergraduate health courses. An important component of this initiative is the design of learning experiences to facilitate students’ reflection on learnings gained throughout their courses and, in particular, the connections between various learning experiences and their meanings in terms of practice as a professional in their respective disciplines. E-portfolio was selected as a key tool for achieving these aims. During Semester 2, 2008, e-portfolio was integrated within three units in the Faculty of Health: NSB333 Clinical Practice 5 (Nursing), HMB470 Practicum 1 (Human Movement Studies) and PYB407 Research and Professional Development Seminar (Psychology and Counselling). Students enrolling in these units are completing their studies in the 3-year Nursing course, the 3-year HMS course and the 4th (Honours) year in Psychology. Two of the units have a work-integrated learning focus (NSB333 and HMB470), whilst PYB407 focuses on extending students’ understanding of research/practice issues. Focus groups with students from all three disciplines were undertaken as part of the evaluation of this Phase 1 integration of e-portfolio within final year units in Health. The presentation reports on the findings of these evaluations and the experiences of staff involved in each of the units. What we have learned, to date, and our plans for the future will also be discussed.

Robyn Nash
Queensland University of Technology

Robyn is the Assistant Dean (Teaching and Learning) in the Faculty of Health at QUT and Director of Undergraduate Programs in the School of Nursing. She is currently co-leadng the Transitions Out Project which is one of QUT’s Teaching and Learning Commissioned Projects. She has led several large teaching and learning projects at QUT including the Yapunyah project which won an ALTC Program Award in 2008.

Sandy Sacre
Queensland University of Technology

Dr Sacre is a Registered Nurse and Registered Psychologist who completed an Honours degree in Psychology at the Queensland University of Technology in 2000 and a PhD in 2007. Since 2005, Sandy has been working in the teaching and learning area in the Faculty of Health at QUT. This work has involved managing large teaching grants, staff development, curriculum design, and the design of teaching websites.

In 2008, Sandy was part of a team that was awarded an Australian Learning and Teaching Council award for Programs that Enhance Learning, for their work on the Yapunyah project, which involved embedding Indigenous perspectives in health curricula. In the same year, she was part of another team that was awarded an ALTC Leadership grant to enhance student learning in the nursing workplace.

Sandy’s research interests are sleep health, insomnia, carer wellbeing, and all aspects of teaching and learning in tertiary environments.
ePortfolios for health professionals: a personal perspective

Ms Sarah Stewart
Aged Care Queensland

Abstract:
As a health professional I am required to have a professional portfolio which I must present for review every two years. I have chosen to develop an ePortfolio in an open wiki and blog. This allows me complete freedom to be innovative, as opposed to being restricted to the predetermined structure of a proprietary ePortfolio platform. Combining blog and wiki not only enables me to store and record artefacts of past work, but also supports ongoing reflection and planning for the future. Developing my ePortfolio in an open online environment allows me to role model portfolio development to colleagues who are unfamiliar with the concept. It allows for continuous peer review, as well as increasing opportunities for further consultation and collaboration. In particular, health consumers have access to my work, which encourages ongoing conversations about health care practice.

The major issue with an ePortfolio in an open online environment is that I have to be very careful about what I write and how I write it. As a health professional I have to think carefully about how I present my clinical practice so I do not compromise my patients’ privacy, and do not open myself up to charges of unprofessional disclosure and/or documentation. Thus, it is vital that I reflect in a meaningful manner that does no harm to my patients or my professional reputation. The challenge for health professions is to consider how ePortfolios can be integrated through undergraduate education and then into registered practice in a way that maintains continuity.

Sarah Stewart
Aged Care Queensland

Sarah Stewart wears many hats: health professional, educator, project manager, consultant and midwife. She is currently project manager for Aged Care Queensland, implementing and evaluating an e-mentoring system, as well as lead educator in the Second Life Education New Zealand project. She is also a PhD candidate at the University of Queensland. Sarah is very interested in how social media and networking can enhance professional development and life-long learning, especially for health professionals. She is a prolific blogger (http://sarah-stewart.blogspot.com) and her ePortfolio (http://sarahstewart-eportfolio.wikispaces.com) has gained international attention and acclaim.