“Rapid-response” Tips for On-line UME Clinical Curriculum Design

When rapid adjustment to online learning is needed, the following sequential steps can help you transform an existing clerkship learning event to an online event.

1/ Define the need within the curriculum: Is it a replacement of a standard physical live event or a new enrichment topic, like an on-line elective? Align it with the institution’s overall Y3/Y4 goals and graduation requirements.

2/ Consider feasibility of scholarly dissemination (review Glassick’s 6 criteria for MedEd scholarship).

3/ Utilize existing curricula/material (if replacing a standard topic). Utilize existing clerkship and event learning objectives to create your new learning objectives, mimicking the live event(s) to maximum feasible extent.

4/ Decide on instructional formats (Voice-over PowerPoint, case-study, video small group discussions, etc.) and length of session/course. Actively recruit collaborators including M4 students.

5/ Decide on intended final product and forms of assessment.

6/ Determine mode of communication with students (learning management system (e.g. Blackboard), e-mail).

7/ Develop or revise instructional material that align with the event’s goals and objectives. If possible, use available prior SOM didactic material and open-source curriculum pieces, videos, other schools’ shared material rather than re-creating de novo. Credit these vigilantly.

8/ Decide on background reading (be considerate of learner’s cognitive load when assigning material).

9/ Prepare assessments/test questions and student assessment of event/course - again consider using available resources.

10/ Post on learning management system or other online platform and announce availability to learners.

11/ Remain engaged with learners (support questions, evaluate submissions, give feedback).

12/ After rapid-response initial posting – take care to refresh, update, improve curricular material.

13/ Collect ongoing feedback from learners on their experience with the online curriculum (ask a single relevant question for each session; this also helps with engagement and updates).

+1/ Consider scholarly dissemination.