

Wednesday, December 10th, 2014

LSC 3 - Life Sciences Centre

2350 Health Sciences Mall

12-1pm



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“Medical education on the move: from Socrates to YouTube”

History has the uncanny habit of repeating itself, perhaps dressed in a different way, yet somehow always the same. In this presentation, I will illustrate how we have lost much of the effective modes of teaching utilized by teachers like Socrates and Plato during the industrial revolution. These modalities are being rediscovered and repackaged in a form that is about to change the way that we are approaching education in a radical and scalable way. From the privileged communities of Palo Alto and Silicon Valley to the Masai tribes in Kenya, education is making a huge impact in a new (yet old) way.

Vernon Louw MedEd is a personal initiative, whereby I hope to contribute in my small way to this change, and bring high quality medical education to medical students all over the world in the form of screencasting-style videos on YouTube. The aim is to teach the basic concepts of haematology in an electronic blackboard format. This allows students to watch these in their own time, while class-time can be used for interactive case discussion and problem-solving activities. Connecting this with social networking allows for continuous interaction between lecturer and students. The long-term vision is to create an online training platform that encompasses clinical exercises with videos and gaming mechanics, which would encourage mastery of study material and self-paced learning.

These websites would then be turned into mobile applications for tablets and mobile phones, thus addressing the variety of ways in which the modern students learn. For examples of completed videos, visit my YouTube channel: Vernon Louw MedEd or my Vernon Louw MedEd Facebook page. The Twitter handle is @vernonlouwmeded. The vision is to move from here to developing Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) for online learning in Haematology, Internal Medicine and Transfusion Medicine.