Understanding How Life Sciences Students Solve ill-structured Problems: A Case Study

I hope to highlight how designing ill-structured problems for group work, combined with use of online asynchronous discussion forums as a mediating tool, could foster student cognitive engagement and peer-learning. I further elaborate on how using a grounded approach to conduct content analysis of students’ discussions could help instructors gain insights into students’ strengths and deficiencies in addressing ill-structured problems. Based on such analyses, interventions could be designed to better scaffold student learning of problem-solving skills in an evidence-based manner. Furthermore, a simplified problem-solving framework was derived that could aid the instructor in promptly evaluating student problem-solving skills in future iterations of the activity.

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A/Prof Yeong obtained her PhD in Molecular Cell Biology from the University of Vienna on an Austrian International PhD scholarship. Her post-doctoral work in IMCB, Singapore, was on cell cycle regulation. Presently, she works on the regulation of mitosis. Recently, she completed the Master of Research degree in Education and Social Research run by the Institute of Education, University College London.

Software Assisted Evaluation of Microsurgical Suturing: A New Innovation in Microsurgery Training

Acquiring competence in microsurgical suturing is a basic requirement for any trainee aspiring to perform clinical microsurgery. New methods and simulation platform continue to evolve, but the assessment of the quality of microsurgical suturing is largely subjective. We present the concept of computer-aided assessment of standardised microsurgical task, using a novel training platform. The platform comprises of a simulator (hardware) that provides the trainee standardised microsurgical tasks, which are then evaluated using a customized software.

This new innovation was incorporated in the microsurgical training courses and evaluation data was analysed and used to create learning curves for microsurgical skill acquisition.

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Dr Amitabha Lahiri is a consultant with the Department of Hand and Reconstructive Microsurgery, NUH. His research areas include neural interfaces, biomechanics, and has a keen interest in the development of simulation models for training in microsurgery.

Date : 9 May 2016 (Monday)
Time : 1.00pm–1.30pm (A/Prof Yeong), 1.30pm–2.00pm (Dr Lahiri)
Venue : Room T09-04, Level 9, NUHS Tower Block, 1E Kent Ridge Road, Singapore 119228

Lunch will be provided from 12.30pm to 1.00pm. Please RSVP at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NUS-PRIME9May2016* by 2 May for catering purposes.

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