

## Resident participation in an Internet-based collaborative teaching tool (Google Docs™)

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**Keywords:** information technology, social networking, collaboration

This study measures the participation of Emergency Medicine residents in an Internet-based collaborative tool created to supplement the teaching received at the National Review Course in Emergency Medicine.

Participants in the 3.5-day course comprised all fifth year residents enrolled in a Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada training program in Emergency Medicine in Canada. A 90-minute critical review of the most important articles to know in preparation for the upcoming certification examination is offered during the course. In 2008, a Google Docs slide show was created to supplement this review. The slide show presents summaries of landmark articles in Emergency Medicine with comments and remains active after the course. Participants are invited to consult, edit and update the slide show throughout the year. Articles are selected either by the principal author, course participants or guest speakers.

We measured the frequency of use of this collaborative tool. In 2008 and 2009, a total of 71 residents attended the course and were invited, along with 30 course faculty members, other residents and experienced clinicians, to contribute to the slide show. A total of 222 editors have access to the document. To date, there have been 961 revisions by 19 different editors. Course residents represent 85% of all editors. In all, 102 landmark articles have been summarized and critically reviewed. A Google Docs slide show specifically created for final-year Emergency Medicine residents preparing for their certification examination has been used actively and regularly since 2008. The majority of editors are course residents. Potential use of this technology for additional teaching purposes needs to be further explored.