

Collaborative faculty development

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Development of clinical faculty is currently an expensive and insular practice done by individual medical colleges. The advent of the interactive web provides opportunities for inexpensive collaborative faculty development.

Tools such as Skype, wikis and Elluminate are currently being used by educators around the world for monthly professional development opportunities, but are almost unknown for this purpose in Canadian medicine. These tools provide opportunities for regular direct learning as well as ongoing discussions about best practices at minimal cost to the universities. The Medical Education wiki is an example of this type of collaboration at the international level. Begun in 2008 as an online faculty development tool for community faculty at the University of Saskatchewan's College of Medicine, this tool now has a membership of more than 200 medical educators from all over the world. It receives 500 hits per month, with an average of 2.5 pages read per visit.