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ConnectGPR 2014: the CoastCityCountry online network for an educational community of training for GP registrars gets bigger and better

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ConnectGPR 2014: the CoastCityCountry online network for an educational community of training for GP registrars gets bigger and better

Abstract

Abstract of paper that presented at 2014 General Practice Education and Training Convention, 3-4 September, Brisbane, Queensland.

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CONNECTGPR 2014: THE COASTCITYCOUNTRY ONLINE NETWORK FOR AN EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY OF TRAINING FOR GPREGISTRARS GETS BIGGER AND BETTER

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Background

Barriers of time and geography exist for regional training providers (RTPs) trying to deliver highest quality training at achievable cost, with finite supervisor resources. Coast City Country General Practice Training (CCCGPT), for example, covers over 160,000 square kilometres. Barriers to knowledge sharing can result in professional isolation, problems with rural recruitment and cost for RTPs in terms of travel and face-to-face workshops. Virtual communities of practice using webinars, forums and shared content can overcome these barriers to provide an efficient and effective adjunct to training.

Objective

To scale up ConnectGPR to assist all levels of registrars across the RTP, in particular to provide a coordinated webinar and forum series that will: offset up to three days of day releases, support PGPPP and support case based learning.

Approach

The ConnectGPR online network included webinars, forums and shared content, coordinated by the authors and supported by CCCGPT administration, supervisors and specialists to deliver 20 webinars and associated forums and resources over 2014.

Findings

The total number of participants is expected to be 100. Usage statistics will be presented including numbers of webinars delivered, attendee numbers, forum views and resource uploads. Quantitative and qualitative data including pre and post webinar knowledge and attitude questions and forum comments will also be presented.

Discussion

Virtual communities of practice like ConnectGPR can overcome natural barriers to knowledge sharing. This has implications for improving knowledge sharing, overcoming professional isolation and potentially rural retention, as well as for the cost-effectiveness of quality training delivery.