

ELECTIVE (SSC5c) REPORT (1200 words)

A report that addresses the above four objectives should be written below. Your Elective supervisor will assess this.

Introduction

Noted as the possible future for surgical teaching and training, Google Glass allows wearers to record what they see and can prove beneficial on the head of a surgeon. Google Glass is a computer device with a camera all in-built into a pair of glasses. The device is network-connected and apps can be installed on the device.

Objective 1: To describe the current challenges in delivering medical education domestically and internationally and the ways innovation can help

Medical education requires huge amounts of time from good quality educators. For many topics, highly experienced doctors who are also interested and skilled in medical education are the most appropriate educators. However these individuals are often under a heavy workload and are relied upon in within the framework of the NHS to run departments or teams. The delivered teaching varies between students and regions - this is another problem. Feedback is rarely integrated and getting good feedback has always been a challenge. A lot of times, accessing the simple, most practical and important bits of knowledge needed for a certain topic is difficult. Books are either too detailed or too simple. An expert medical educator can often provide this effectively. For example, Dr Ahmed does this very well. This is one of the reasons why I thought being able to deliver his teaching on a bigger scale would do well, because I personally did not have a great surgical placement. The problem is compounded internationally. All regions of the world would benefit from good medical education but this varies according to resources. Being able to provide free teaching modules would be great however there needs to be an infrastructure to support this. The aim of this project would be to help create this infrastructure.

Objective 2: To describe the major educational themes in UK medical education and how these compare to other countries

The major educational themes in the United Kingdom are anatomy, physiology, pathology, pharmacology, prescribing, clinical skills, clinical reasoning, biomedical sciences. There is also a heavy emphasis on social sciences such as communication skills, working as a team, becoming educators, conflict resolution etc.

Probably the biggest difference to other countries is the practical nature of our courses here in the UK. Knowing some doctors who were trained abroad, they always compare just how much anatomy and physiology they had to learn off by heart to how our examinations are designed to assess our practical understanding of these topics. Clearly, it is unnecessary for every doctor to know the full anatomy of every region of the human body and so teaching them the clinical skills necessary to practice medicine is clearly and more time effective activity. Probably the biggest difference to other countries is the practical nature of our courses here in the UK. Knowing some doctors who were trained abroad, they always compare just how much anatomy and physiology they had to learn off by heart to how our examinations are designed to assess our practical understanding of these topics. Clearly, it is unnecessary for every doctor to know the full anatomy of every region of the human body and so teaching them the clinical skills necessary to practice medicine is clearly and more time effective

activity. Many internationals come to the UK for their undergraduate medical course before returning. Perhaps if they do become educators, they may influence their university.

Objective 3: Discuss the impact of innovation on medical education, and subsequent medical practice and health care

IT innovation has had a major impact on medical education. For example, YouTube currently has hundreds to thousands of high quality medical education videos including lectures, clinic skills demonstrations and surgery. I believe currently we are in acceleration of medical education, which has slightly lagged behind when it comes to taking advantage of this technological golden age. But now we have an abundance of apps, revision websites and online communities.

Objective 4; Reflect on my experience and discuss the role of medical education in my future career

My experience taught me a lot about what we can do with technology. While I have always been interested in medical education, I have learnt that to optimise my own personal strengths, I need to be involved in something I'm very good at. I believe that is programming and IT development. Going forward, I personally want to remain involved in the Google Glass project but I'm going to look for further opportunities to work with innovation in medical education. In fact, innovation in any medical field will be something I will be interested in.