
Project Title:

Virtual Problem-Based Learning: A needs assessment exploring on-line PBL group learning

Project Summary (150 words maximum)

UBC has a distributed model of medical education with multiple sites. Currently students participate in problem-based learning (PBL) groups at their respective sites with local tutors. This limits student's exposure to their colleagues and to a wider variety of tutors available throughout the medical school. Recommendations from the Task Force on Undergraduate MD Curriculum Renewal¹ include the adoption of improved flexibility in undergraduate medical education. This project is a needs assessment of students and faculty exploring the possible use of on-line PBL. Virtual PBL could allow for:

1. increased flexibility for students and faculty
2. improve accessibility and unity across the UBC distributed learning model

Based on Kern's model of curriculum development², the first phase of curriculum development is problem identification and needs assessment. This is the needs assessment of students and faculty exploring the use of virtual PBL learning.

1. *Dean's Task Force on Undergraduate MD Curriculum Renewal – Faculty Retreat Report*, January 2010.

2. Kern et al. *Curriculum Development for Medical Education: a six-step approach*. Baltimore, Maryland: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998.