

ABSTRACT FOR AMEE 2005

Title

Study Coach And Learning Environment (SCALE): Developing a nationwide medical computer based training database

Authors

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Section

E-learning

Abstract

Background

Since January 2005, four Dutch medical schools are cooperating in the SCALE project (supported by the SURF foundation), which aims to develop an open online portal (based on the Leiden University Lesson Registration System LRS.Net) for structured access to web-based medical Computer Based Training (CBT) programs. All programs will be indexed by a wide range of characteristics, regarding content, but also administrative and technical features. Furthermore, the SCALE system will monitor the history of students in relation to CBT learning goals and offer them automatic and individual study advice. Teachers can track the students' progress over time.

Summary of work

In the first step of the project, representatives from all eight medical schools in the Netherlands were consulted in an inventory of information needs. Subsequently, a multi-dimensional classification system for all Dutch medical CBT programs was developed, based on international standards. Regarding medical content, several classifications like MESH, ICPC2 and the USMLE descriptions were compared. Finally, the MESH classification was chosen because of its broadness and completeness.

Next, the functional design of the study coach will be defined and a prototype will be built. A fully functional system is planned to be available mid-2006.