Development, implementation and pilot evaluation of a collaborative model to teach health

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This project was supported by "Diabetes Initiative for Applied Biomedical engineering Technologies (DIABET)" Agency: National Institute of Health

Rationale

- Health education and promotion curriculum planners should consider innovative ways to enhance the learning about health by using technology in systematic and creative ways.
- Web Based Instruction must be designed to accommodate individual learning styles.
- Instructors have to select from a large variety of available technologies that will directly contribute to enhance learning.

Theoretical Background

Ritchie and Hoffman (1997):

- well-designed courses
- motivate the learner
- specify what is to be learned
- prompt the learner to recall
- apply previous knowledge
- provide new information
- offer guidance and feedback
- test comprehension
- supply enrichment or remediation

Theoretical Background

Constructivist theory (Staver, 1998)

- learners should be viewed as cognitive subjects engaged in the process of active knowledge construction
- emphasize students' prior knowledge and focus on challenging existing misconceptions they may have that are at odds with accepted scientific views.

Purpose of Study

- to evaluate the impact of technology integration in redesigning three health courses for graduate students majoring in community health.
 - Obesity and related disorders HED 583
 - Pathophysiology of disease HED 4/570
 - Pathophysiology of diabetes HED 4/579

Instructional Tools

WebCT

- On-line syllabus
- Reference links
- Power Point class/lecture notes
- asynchronous on-line discussions mediated by an online facilitator
- Libraries' Electronic Reserve (e-reserve) <u>http://scholar.csuohio.edu/screens/m_course.html</u>

multimedia resources

□ 3-D graphics, animation, videos (inside-organ journey)

Questionnaire

Section 1 - Information about the population being surveyed

- Section 2 Attitudes Toward the Use of Technology
- Section 3 Self-Efficacy Toward Use of Technology
- Section 4 Technology Use
- Section 5 Barriers to Using Technology
- Section 6 Qualitative comments on the experiences of respondents with respect to the use of nontraditional teaching and learning methods

Perspectives from Students

- 1. "The process actively engaged us; we were able to verify and apply new concepts on our own and that definitely enhanced our learning experience..."
- 2. "I had the opportunity to work on my own pace, so I could really evolve as the course progressed..."
- 3. "The fact that lecture notes were available at any time and place made a tremendous difference in my learning..."
- 4. "I was able to communicate so much better with my classmates and therefore prepare better for the midterm..."

Perspectives from Instructor

- Material for class can be easily updated and made available instantly to students
- Web based instruction can create meaningful learning environments
- Opportunity to monitor students' learning
- Students can access other web resources, including video clips
- Learning experience is enhanced by access to vivid, rich sources of information
- Can be challenging and time-consuming

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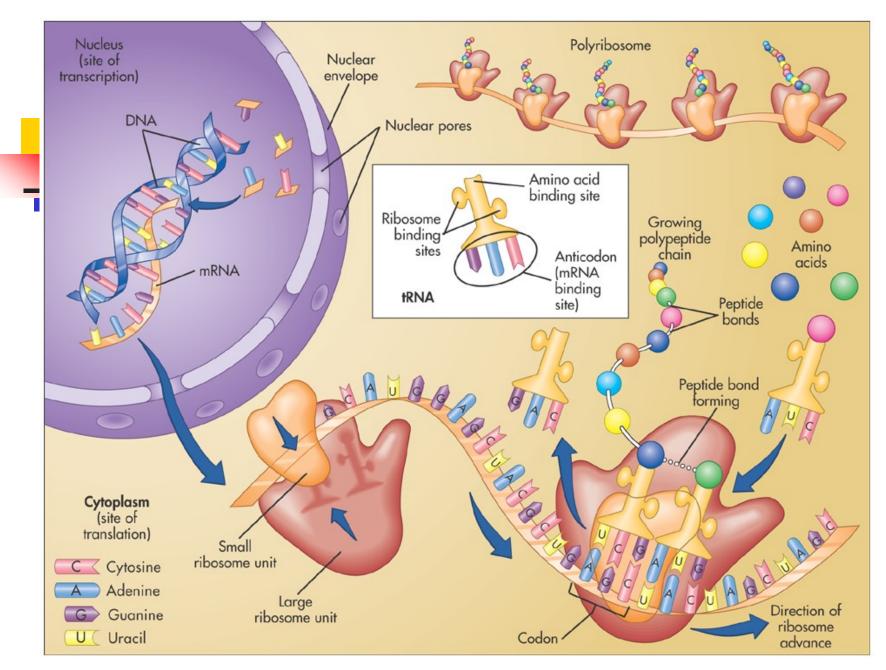
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Suggestions and Conclusions

- 3D graphics motivated students to learn the content than the text-only information.
- virtual reality is a feasible alternative instructional tool for teaching concepts, especially concepts for which visualization is required
- Web based instruction can create meaningful learning environments by engaging students in active application of knowledge, concepts and giving them an opportunity to control pace and monitor learning
- enhance students' health science learning, assist health education, and possibly affect their health behaviors.