Title: **Implementation of a podcasting project targeting key stages of a three year undergraduate programme**

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Abstract:

Session Learning Outcomes

By the end of this session, delegates will be able to:

- Explore the merits of developing a podcasting site to provide 'just in time' support to students
- Appraise the strategies used to promote staff and student engagement in production and access to podcasts
- Evaluate the impact of podcasting as a way of staff providing support and information to students

Session Outline

This paper reports on the findings from an evaluative study on the use of podcasting to provide support and advice at key stages of progression though the academic year for undergraduate nursing students. Fernandez, Simo and Sallan,(2009) state that podcasts are generally well received by students. However according to a recent review paper by Heilesen (2010) there appears to be no robust evidence base to support podcasting as an effective teaching and learning tool. Therefore the intention of the authors is to present their findings, enhancing the body of evidence, by providing an overview of the project aims, podcast topics, data collection methods and results; discussing the challenges and opportunities they faced with faculty implementation throughout the project.

The project actively engaged students and staff in developing the podcasts to provide support from the student's perspective, drawing on the ideas from the 'Student as Producer' (University of Lincoln 2011). The project involved students entering 1st, 2nd and 3rd year studies. This allowed the team to assess the impact of podcasting as a means of support for students entering University for the first time, articulating from other Further Education Institutions, continuing students and those in the final year of studies.

Evaluation of staff and students consists of both qualitative and quantitative data giving a rich source of evidence. Lecture based voting system was also piloted to collect student data in comparison to a paper based evaluation sheet. Exploration of data collection within this paper will add further knowledge as the team compare methods and offer their experience.

The discovery of surprising elements of the evaluation will afford an opportunity for discussion throughout the session.

Session Activities and Approximate Timings

This session will provide an overview of the project including aims, podcast topics, student involvement, data collection methods and findings.

Participants will have the opportunity to listen to extracts of the podcasts which have been professionally produced.

Key questions for discussion will focus on:

- Discussion of podcasting as a method of providing student support
- Involving staff and students in production of podcasts
- Use of technology in data collection

References

Fernandez, V., Simo, P., Sallan, J.M., 2009. Podcasting: A new technological tool to facilitate good practice in higher education. *Computers & Education*. 53: 385–392. Available from: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.compedu.2009.02.014

Heilesen, S.B., 2010. What is the academic efficacy of podcasting? *Computers & Education*, 55: 1063–1068

University of Lincoln 2011. *Student as producer*. Available from http://studentasproducer.lincoln.ac.uk/

Additional source:

Gray, C., Smyth, K., Campbell, K., McLeod, C., Strickland, K. (2010) *How to use podcasting to enhance teaching & learning*. Edinburgh Napier University. Available from: http://staff.napier.ac.uk/services/academicdevelopment/LTA/resources/Pages/Details.aspx?ItemID=43&Section=R