

[P05.010] FrontalCortex.com: A Website for Online Learning in Neurology

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OBJECTIVE: To create a physician-edited website that is free of charge, available to anyone, anywhere, which provides accurate, verifiable information, incorporates active, multimodal learning techniques, and serves the educational needs of medical students, residents, and fellows studying neurology. **BACKGROUND:** Online learning is a significant part of medical education. With declining funding and rising enrollment, its importance is expected to increase. Many medical education websites fail to incorporate active learning techniques, which improve retention. Many medical education websites are not available to the public. There is a need for freely available online educational tools in neurology that incorporate active learning. **DESIGN/METHODS:** On FrontalCortex.com, a website was developed that allows users to contribute educational content, including text, images, audio, video, and multiple-choice questions. Content can be arranged to create interactive, multimedia courses. A physician administrator moderates and edits all content, ensuring editorial standards, including citation of verifiable references. FrontalCortex.com incorporates dynamic questions – computer programs that draw content fragments from a database and combine them to generate novel multiple-choice questions. Educators worldwide are encouraged to contribute content, and to use any site content for any educational, noncommercial purpose. Although FrontalCortex.com operates autonomously and remains independent of any educational institution, all contributors must indicate their credentials, including institutional affiliations and education. **RESULTS:** As of October 2008, FrontalCortex.com contains 310 multiple-choice questions. A neuropathology course was created, containing interactive and multimedia content, including over 1000 images. Two institutions plan to use FrontalCortex.com for teaching neuropathology to their neurology residents. Content has been contributed by people from multiple countries and institutions. On average, 13,478 pages are served weekly, to 798 hosts. Registered users are from 32 countries. **CONCLUSIONS/RELEVANCE:** User feedback has emphasized the need for reliable, free educational materials for aspiring neurologists, especially in countries where learners have fewer economic resources. FrontalCortex.com is a useful, universally accessible tool for neurology education.