

emrU newsletter, September 2013

What is emrU?

emrU is an Epic electronic health record software environment created for use by the Health Sciences here at The University of Iowa. Our goals are to enhance existing classes, facilitate interprofessional education and provide students with a solid background in how to use an electronic medical record before they graduate – an essential skill for anyone in healthcare today.

This month: go-live!

- After many months of hard work by many people to get this new project off the ground, emrU was used in the classroom for the first time this past month. The Carver College of Medicine is the first of the Health Sciences to go live with emrU and will be utilizing emrU throughout the fall semester.
- First-year medical students were first introduced to emrU during the *TechTime* portion of the Carver College of Medicine's week-long Orientation process at the end of August. During this time we ensured that the requisite technical infrastructure was in place on every student's laptop and that every student had been granted the necessary access.
- On first day of classes Dr. Amy Dowden, course director for the first class to use emrU -- *Medicine and Society* -- introduced students to their first class of the Carver College of Medicine's new integrated curriculum and explained how emrU would be utilized to present learning material to students throughout the semester.
- Prior to this, we trained every instructor who would be using emrU this fall on how to use the system and ensured that they had the access necessary to login to the system. Not every instructor has clinical experience with an electronic medical record, so these sessions are critical to ensuring success and supporting our instructors.
- This first use of emrU is in the context of a course structured around the idea of *case-based learning*—where students are presented with realistic narratives containing a variety of complex

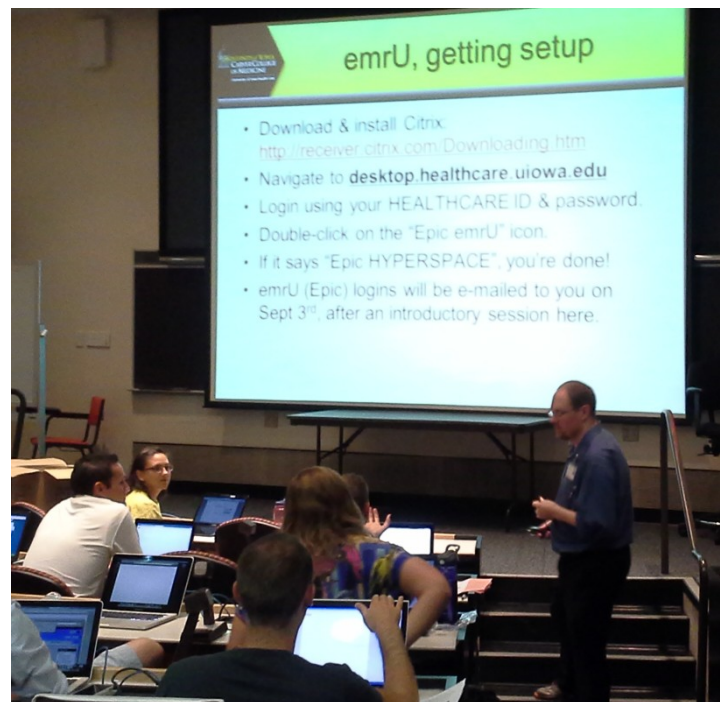


Figure 1: Nick May listens to first-year medical students during the *TechTime* portion of Orientation on August 20th.

problems for them to solve collaboratively. During this process students will discuss treatment approaches and interaction with the patient in a small-group setting.

- emrU is being used to present this content to the students in two main ways:
 - First, via existing videos of an actor or actress interacting with a UIHC physician to discuss their reason for seeking medical care, the symptoms they are experiencing, as well as the history of this illness and any other past medical history that may contribute to a diagnosis.
 - Second, a realistic medical record which shows a series of documented interactions with the medical provider which mirrors those in the videos. In addition to containing further details in the physician's notes, the record also includes information such as the patient's vitals or the results of lab tests.

- Every case or patient we build into the system is different –for example, a series of patients that we are building into the system right now have no need for a robust clinical history, instead requiring detailed radiology images be accessible from within the patient's record, just as they are in the Epic environment used for real patient care at UIHC.

- In order to equip students with the skills they will need to use emrU effectively, Health Care Information Systems (HCIS) gave a presentation to the students on how to use Epic, the electronic health record software behind emrU.
- We are now preparing to address the curriculum needs for the spring semester –including not only the Carver College of Medicine, but also the College of Pharmacy and College of Nursing with interprofessional integration on the horizon for next summer.
- Stay tuned for more on exciting interprofessional developments in the coming months.



Figure 2 Heather Mullinnix introduces first-year medical students to Epic on September 3rd, before logging into the system and orienting them to the user interface.



Figure 3 Nick May re-introduces emrU to first-year medical students on September 3rd.

Thanks!

In addition to the input and guidance that every member of the emrU Steering Committee provides, emrU cannot happen without the help of many more talented individuals.

This month these people include: Steve Berge, Bev Black, Brian Crow, Amy Dowden, Randy Ferguson, Jason Gardner, Sonya Housholder, Phyllis Jacobsen, Dan Johnsen, Tim Hansohn, Karl Krumbholz, Kerry Lao, Elizabeth Lee, Kim Lilly, Shannon Manley, Heather Mullinnix, Ed Nealson, Ryan Potter, John Pudwill & all the members of his team, Cheryl Sawyer, Jason Smith, Mary Spreen, Eric Schnedler & his staff, Ben Solinski, Duane Staskal, Sue Stumpf & HCIS Identity Management, Kim Wiley & Radiology Engineering

Find us!

There is someone on the emrU Steering Committee near you! Consider talking to them about integrating emrU into your next class or giving us ideas we may not have considered about the future of medical education technology.

Carver College of Medicine: Dave Asprey, Boyd Knosp, Amal Shibli-Rahhal.

College of Nursing: Ellen Cram, Maria Lofgren, Deb McCarthy, Cristina Richards.

UI Department of Nursing: Janet Hosking, LouAnn Montgomery.

College of Pharmacy: Gary Milavetz.

Health Care Information Systems: Dr. Bolger, Mary Jo Duffy, Dr. Van Daele, Val Heffernan, Nick May, Kristy Walker.



Figure 4 Heather Mullinnix explains emrU to first-year medical students on September 3rd.

Join us!

Do you have a class that you think would benefit from a robust patient for every student in a safe Epic environment devoid of real patient data? Do you want new tools to evaluate student learning? Tell us!

[Propose a project](#), get in touch with the people listed above, or e-mail Nick May at nicholas-may@uiowa.edu for more information about what we can do for you!