

Technology Enhanced Medical Education

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Medical education is rapidly changing, influenced by many factors including the changing healthcare environment, the changing role of the physician and altered societal expectations. What would medicine be like in 20 years' time? What are the future challenges for medical education and how can we prepare to effectively face them? The principal challenges in medical education can be categorized as changes occurring in the healthcare environment, the information explosion related to medicine and healthcare, and changes in the learner profile. Changes in the healthcare environment are driven by advances in technology, increasing costs, diversity of providers and settings, changing expectations of patients and the public (including professionalism, ethics and communication) and commodification of healthcare. Technology offers many opportunities to overcome future challenges in medical education. Low-cost technology can be as effective as high cost options in achieving the desired educational outcomes. If you look in the right places, tomorrow's technology, at an affordable price, is already there.