

Health Sciences Online: health education in the palm of your hand.

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Health Sciences Online (HSO) is a virtual learning centre delivering comprehensive education to health professionals across the globe. Providing high quality, cost-effective health training has been a challenge for many parts of the world, especially for third world countries, yet training is essential for the delivery of effective health services to local communities. Quality training saves lives. Local delivery of health care reduces health care costs by ensuring timely care, reducing transport costs and minimising disruption to productive daily activities.

Recognising that commercial interests have enhanced global access to internet services, HSO capitalised on the availability of this technology to deliver innovative, trans-disciplinary health training wherever internet access is possible whether by via mobile phone or other devices.

HSO is a portal that opens access to a mobile library of free, high-quality, up-to-date resources for health professionals. Currently HSO includes more than 50,000 learning objects and this library continues to grow. A wide range of health science disciplines (medical, public health, nursing, dentistry) are covered.

In our second phase, HSO is helping to start and sustain schools of dentistry, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, physical therapy, public health, and speech-language pathology in the Caribbean, China, Colombia, India, Kenya, Nepal, South Africa, and Zambia. We expect that our global launch for our health sciences university in Jan 2012 will have at least six residency programs, 30+ medicine, public health, nursing, and dentistry rotations, and three masters' degrees -- all high-quality and community-based, and all for free.

We hope to utilize this conference to inform others about HSO. The opportunity to deliver this library to poorly-resourced and locally-isolated communities has already enabled collaboration between a variety of health providers and educators. The vision of HSO is a global focus towards better health.