Lab-based anatomy teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic: enhancing face-to-face teaching with ‘virtual demonstrators’

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The Challenge

The design and delivery of undergraduate practical anatomy classes had to be adapted to minimise the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission. This was a challenge as these classes usually involve movement of students between stations and a high level of person-to-person contact among students as well as between students and staff.

Aim: To introduce a new approach to practical anatomy that combines face-to-face and virtual teaching

How did we do it?

Student feedback

The new concept of labs worked very well with social distancing and they were very helpful for my understanding.

It was very helpful to have the PhD students on the iPads during practicals.

I felt very supported and was encouraged to ask questions and was comfortable doing this.

Take-Away

- The setup created a safe environment for students and staff.
- The ‘virtual demonstrators’ reduced the number of required staff in the lab.
- The positive feedback encourages us to roll out this approach to other courses.

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