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Upgrading and expanding online Histology quizzes for first year Medical and Dental students at the University of British Columbia (UBC)

JA Rozylo*¹, HHC Yang*¹, R. Walters#², H. Yule#³

*These authors contributed equally. #These authors co-supervised. ¹Medical students, ²Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, ³Department of Cellular and Physiological Sciences, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Histology is an integral part of the curriculum at UBC's Medical/Dental school. Online quizzes are used by students to deepen and test their understanding of course material, and to provide an interactive practice experience in preparation for exams. We aimed to revise the Histology quizzes for laboratories in the Year 1 Term 1 Principles of Human Biology (PRIN) block of the curriculum. Our goal was to ensure that the learning objectives and materials of the course were comprehensively represented in the quizzes, that the questions represented exam type questions, and that the students were given an opportunity to integrate their learning of Histology with other material learned in the PRIN curriculum. Ten practice quizzes were reviewed. Seven quizzes were chosen for revision. Two cumulative review quizzes were introduced. Building on revisions of past Histology quizzes, we introduced the following: moveable slides, multi-part questions, questions that bridge the Histology course with other topics learned in PRIN, "look-alike" questions, feedback on the questions, review quizzes and the use of the "contains" feature in the Respondus® program. Quizzes were written in the Respondus® program and reviewed by the project supervisors and individual Histology Instructors. They were uploaded onto MEDICOL as Web CT quizzes and trialed by Medical students. Minor edits were made to the quizzes online through UBC's Digital Media technologist. An online survey will be launched for the incoming first year Medical/Dental Students in order to assess the impact of these quizzes on student learning.