

AQUIFER EDUCATOR CONNECTION PODCAST

Episode 1: Engaging Learners through Tele-precepting

Guest: Cynthia (Cindy) Lord, PA-C, Associate Professor and Founding Director, Case Western Reserve University Physician Assistant Program, Cleveland, OH.

Host: Lynne Robins, PhD, Professor Emerita, Department of Biomedical Informatics and Medical Education, University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, WA.

Description: When the COVID pandemic made it impossible for PA students to attend clinical rotations and the number of available clinical teaching sites and preceptors became limited, Cindy Lord developed a tele-precepting program to simulate traditional precepting during a rotation. Aquifer cases formed the basis of structured, learner-centered small group sessions conducted via Zoom and facilitated by a tele-preceptor. The sessions provided a means of achieving educational equivalence across teaching sites and instructors, filling curricular gaps, enhancing student learning, and providing opportunity for the development of mentoring relationships between students and clinical faculty. The tele-precepting program proved so valuable that it is now a regular part of PA education at Case Western Reserve University.

Cindy's Lessons Learned:

- Interactive tele-precepting using Aquifer cases promotes learning and strong student engagement
- Select a strong faculty lead who is familiar with Aquifer cases and can orient preceptors to cases and teaching expectations.
- Tailor case selection to student needs.
- Stress the importance to students of coming to class prepared for active, case based discussion, and to preceptors the importance of facilitating student discussion rather than lecturing.
- Every program is different. Test evaluation tools and don't be afraid to adapt and refine your approach.

Links to resources mentioned in this episode:

- [Faculty evaluation of student performance](#)
- [Student evaluation of tele-precepting experience](#)
- [Tele-preceptor session grading rubric](#)
- [Lessons Learned from COVID: Best Practices for Using Aquifer in Virtual Courses](#) (featuring Cindy Lord starting at 11:15)

Theme Music: "Little Idea" by scottholmesmusic.com