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Understanding rheumatoid arthritis in one hour. Generating an evolving drop box flyer for use by undergraduate physiotherapy students

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Statement of the Problem: The time and academic pressures on UK undergraduate physiotherapy students increase each year. Students are now routinely expected to have a detailed knowledge of anatomy physiology, research methods keep an up to date portfolio and work with and have a knowledge of other professions. All of this with limited class contact time. This means that the time available to lecture on specific disease such as Rheumatoid arthritis is extremely limited. Student physiotherapists finding learning the pathology, immunology and management of RA extremely challenging as it is often the first systemic immunological disease they encounter in their undergraduate studies.

The complexity of RA

Our evolving understanding of the immune and cellular events of rheumatoid arthritis has led to the development of a considerable number of new developments that students need to be kept abreast of in an easily accessible format presented clearly but accurately.

PowerPoint presentations and book chapters have their place but, in an evolving topic such as rheumatology are often immediately outdated once delivered. Also, there are knowledge retention issues with PowerPoint (typically 15%) (Savoy et al 2009). I propose a flyer entitled "Rheumatoid arthritis- the story of a disease" presented in the format of a news article making it less daunting and more palatable to our students

The flyer

The flyer can be found at

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/lgqqvrp363ck9np/Rheumatoid%20arthritis-%20the%20story%20of%20a%20disease.docx?dl=0>

It is presented as a succinct but evidence-based guide to RA that will evolve as our knowledge of RA evolves, rather than students being given a one-off lecture they will be provided with this link which will be updated remotely as new genetic, epigenetic and pharmacological developments are made. This will be evaluated by online survey after each student log in episode to view the flyer.

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