

THE USE OF SOCIAL NETWORKS IN THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS FOR STUDENTS OF MEDICAL UNIVERSITIES

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In the contemporary world of digital technologies the speed of information distribution and updating is very high. Modern specialists in any field of activity should be able to work with the Internet in order to have access to information for self-education. In the field of medicine this concerns getting familiar with new recommendations and guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and the results of clinical trials, reading publications of respected authors, participating in conferences, etc. Social networks are an integral part of the online interaction between people of different professions, which can lead to mutually beneficial cooperation, including the field of education.

Facebook is currently one of the largest social networks in the world. Users create their own personal page where they can place information about themselves, their work, interests, create photo albums, add videos and of course chat with other users that they can add as friends. Also there is a possibility to create groups of interests or join existing groups to communicate with like-minded people. All this attracts users from all over the world of different age groups and professions. Offering users a huge range of functions for interacting, Facebook becomes an information platform where users can share knowledge and experience, as well as get the right information [1]. Thus, Facebook acquires an important educational function. A significant point when choosing this social network for communication and education is the fact that most students and teachers are already registered on Facebook and have their own accounts. Facebook is among the top five most visited websites in the world.

If we analyze the interaction between teachers and students, then communication in a special group on the Facebook seems to be very convenient. The group is a kind

of limited way of collaboration embedded in Facebook [2]. The group provides users with the opportunity to share documents, organize and manage events as well as gives a common space for collective discussion – the news line shows the message of each group member to all the others group members. For group communication it is not necessary to add all its members to friends, thereby allowing them to access some personal information. The group administrator (the teacher) can download files with homework tasks, resources for searching information, links to teaching materials (articles, videos). When a teacher adds a new file or message, he can see how many members of the group saw this. The content of the group is accessible through the mobile Facebook application for smartphones, which allows members at any time to get acquainted with the updates. Staying in contact all the time teacher and student can discuss current problems and tasks and not be dependent on the class which is limited in time [3].

For the provision of continuous medical education, the department of Internal Medicine actively uses the capabilities of Facebook. Created both open and closed groups. An open group on Facebook provides public access to information (interaction with students, colleagues, domestic and international cooperation). Private groups on Facebook provide access to information only to members of the group. Closed groups have been created for target audiences - a group for improving the qualification of medical teachers of the department; group for participants of postgraduate medical education [4]. Since the creation of our department group in 2016, almost 1000 people have joined it, and publications that are made for public access have more than 2000 views. Also, with the advent of the group, the teachers note a greater involvement of students in the educational process, and the attendance of the student's scientific society of the department of Internal Medicine has increased.

The use of modern Web-Technologies in our department is not limited to social networks. The department has its own YouTube channel where lectures and recordings of speeches from the conferences are placed.

A lot of discoveries are constantly being made in medicine, new methods of diagnosis and treatment appear, approaches to patients with various pathologies are

being improved. A modern teacher should provide the student with this information and also teach him to find the necessary content by himself. Facebook gives us an excellent platform for accomplishing this task and this kind of interaction between teacher and student can qualitatively improve the training of young professionals.

References:

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