

Engaging students in Physiology education during and after COVID 19 pandemic: lessons learned from online-based physiology competition

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The curriculum of medical education in Indonesia has been changed dramatically in the past few years to provide comprehensive medical education. In this approach, clinical sciences and skills were early introduced and integrated with non-clinical phase of medical education. This methodology has emphasized the importance of active learning to improve student engagement and critical thinking skills. One of the active learning strategies that can be applied to medical students is through competition. Since 2017, the Physiology Department of Faculty of Medicine Airlangga University in Surabaya-Indonesia organize Indonesian Medical Physiology Olympiad (IMPHO) for undergraduate medical students. This is an annual physiology quiz event at the national level. Each year, more than 60 teams from different universities follow this event. Although this competition was disrupted in 2020 due to Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, fortunately, this competition came back in 2021 with completely transformed to an online-based competition. All aspects of this competition were conducted online because of the face-to-face restriction. In here, we will explore the learning strategy of medical students and their perspective about the engagement to physiology education through their participation in this quiz. Furthermore, we will also present which aspects should be maintained after the recovery of this pandemic.

Keywords: Physiology education, student's engagement, Indonesian Medical Physiology Olympiad, Physiology quiz