Challenges and opportunities of using virtual patients in xMOOCs

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Behavioral Medicine: A Key to better Health

- The science of changing behavior to improve health and quality of life
- Topics: stress and coping, sleep, physical activities, everyday behaviors
- Course run 9 Sep–21 Oct.
- Clinical case-based course
- Two VPs: Week 2, stress problems, Week 3, sleep problems

Course staff: Anne H. Berman, Sakari Suominen, Gabriele Biguet

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VPs in Behavioral Medicine MOOC

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VPs in Behavioral Medicine MOOC

- Enrollment: 19236 learners
- USA, India and UK most represented countries
- Activity: 2458 and 1806 participants declared completing the VPs of weeks 2 and 3
- Participants feedback: great majority agreed that VPs were a helpful exercise
VPs users’ pathways

- Visual Analytics to display large datasets (almost 6000 initiated user sessions)
- Visualization of the most / less visited nodes
- Feedback on learners’ choices
- Visual Analytics may inform future VP designing
Conclusion

- First reported experience of VPs in a MOOC
- Open Labyrinth VP system hosted on the VPH Share cloud provided a stable computing platform [http://vph-share.eu/](http://vph-share.eu/)
- Positive feedback of the Behavioral Medicine MOOC participants
- Few technical challenges reported
- Opportunities of the 6000 participants traces
- Future research: user navigation analysis, insights on learning process
Thank you for your attention!