

# Developing MOOCs in Health Education: adding heft to the hype

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# MOOCs: A High Quality ‘Disruption’?

- Massive Open (free) Online Courses (>100,000 users)
- Multiple online platforms
  - Partnered with elite institutions
  - Some focus on specific disciplines
- Courses constructed of a variety of eLearning tools
- Limited assessment models, rarely lead to a qualification

# MOOCS @ SGUL

- 3 MOOC courses created so far
  - The Genomics Era (14,000 joiners over 3 runs)
  - ECG Assessment (24,000 joiners over 3 runs)
  - Preparing for an International Health Elective (with Kings College London)
- Primarily targeting healthcare professionals



FREE ONLINE COURSE

## Preparing for an International Health Elective: Training in Global Health, Ethics and Safety

Prepare for undertaking an International Health Elective, in this course developed in collaboration with King's College London

[Go to course – starts 6 Jun](#)

King's College London

# FutureLearn

- FutureLearn – Founded by the Open University ([www.futurelearn.com](http://www.futurelearn.com))
- 3,700,000 distinct learners
- The ‘story-tellers’ MOOC
  - Built on social constructivist principles
- Places a strong emphasis on social learning
- Comments on every page
- Dedicated discussion pages



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**Luke Woodham**

Leave a comment... (plain text only, links will be auto-linked)

Post 0/1200

**[Redacted]** Follow 13 OCT

What to share and when is an issue best left to the clinician. They should be able to make such judgements. Information from the ultrasound scans are different for the clinician than the risks perceived to the mother or foetus.

Like • Reply

**[Redacted]** Follow 07 AUG

I can see no alternative to giving the patient all the information and, then, interpreting it as best one may in the light of current knowledge. This, again, points up the need for thorough discussion before testing so that one can be as sure as is possible that the patient understands all the implications.

Like • Reply

**[Redacted]** Follow 05 AUG

If the information does not cause any harm the clinician need not talk about it however if there is a risk it needs to be disclosed so that the person is free to make a decision and if he or she has enough trust in the clinician can seek an advice. It all depends how the issue is handled by the clinician. This will also be a test of the ability of the clinician to interpret the information correctly.

# The Genomics Era

- Collaboration with Health Education England, providing a large library of Genomics resources

from 'Health Education England'.  
Your MOOC is a game-changer!

I'll keep this brief, your Futurelearn course is brilliant, its engaging and really high quality. You wouldn't believe the excitement that we are getting by just reading the comments from week 1. So many interesting people from so many walks of life ..... Thank you for letting us be part of this.

The screenshot shows the course page for 'The Genomics Era: the Future of Genetics in Medicine' on Futurelearn. The page features a navigation bar with 'Courses', 'About', and 'Partners' links, and a user profile icon. The main heading is 'FREE ONLINE COURSE' followed by the course title. Below the title is a description: 'Learn about the growing role of genomics in healthcare, for patient diagnoses and treatment, with this free online course'. A prominent pink button says 'Go to course - started 9 Nov'. The page includes a video player showing a woman in a white lab coat sitting at a desk, with a play button overlay. To the right of the video player are course details: 'St George's University of London' logo, 'FREE online course', 'Duration: 5 weeks', '2 hours pw', and 'Certificates available'. At the bottom, there are links for 'ABOUT THE COURSE' and 'SHARE', along with a help icon.

Courses About Partners

FREE ONLINE COURSE

## The Genomics Era: the Future of Genetics in Medicine

Learn about the growing role of genomics in healthcare, for patient diagnoses and treatment, with this free online course

Go to course - started 9 Nov

St George's University of London

FREE online course

Duration: 5 weeks

2 hours pw

Certificates available

ABOUT THE COURSE

SHARE

# Resources

- Text, images, video, audio, animation

**Did you know?**

# MOOCs – Are they all style, no substance?

Many criticisms of MOOCs

- Are they doing anything different?
- Do they offer a good educational experience?
- Lack of direct social interaction
- Limited assessment models
- What do they actually count for?

# Accreditation

- The Genomics Era is first course on FutureLearn to receive accreditation from a UK Royal College
- Course is accredited for 10 points/10 hours from:
  - Royal College of Paediatric and Child Health
  - Royal College of General Practitioners
  - Royal College of Physicians



# Has it had an effect?

	Run 1 (without CPD)	Run 2 (with CPD)	Run 3 (with CPD)
Joiners	6018	4653	3768
Learners	2781 (46.2%)	1617 (44.8%)	1632 (43.3%)
Fully participating Learners	719 (25.9%)	545 (26.1%)	390 (23.9%)
Statements	78 (10.8%)	90 (16.5%)	48(12.3%)

# Summary

- The value proposition of MOOCs for learners, and for institutions, is still uncertain
- Changes and developments are still required
- However, the belief remains that these resources can be a compelling proposition in the future, with improved recognition and functionality to support that