PTAS Project Report   (for SMALL PROJECT GRANTS)

Project Title: Creation and evaluation of immersive simulation digital media

School / Department: Edinburgh Medical School

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Grant recipients are expected to submit a brief report at the conclusion of their project which outlines briefly the following: nature of work completed; outcomes; benefits to student learning/student experience; dissemination activity (where relevant – actual and planned) and how the activity could inform future work or be transferred to other subject areas in the University. The brief report will be published on the IAD web pages.

Summary:
The main purpose of this project was to build a digital library of different clinical environments that could be used with the existing simulation facilities in the Chancellor's Building Clinical Skills Centre to expand the teaching possibilities. Following the creation of the library, we had intended to evaluate the content by running a number of simulation sessions with undergraduate medical students and gain feedback through the use of questionnaires. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we could only fulfil a small part of this project.

Achievements:
The project started very well, with us employing a student from the Edinburgh College of Arts and receiving permission to visit and film locations within the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh Emergency Department and Radiology Department, as well as some of the training facilities used by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services. We were successfully able to film several locations at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, which included a resuscitation room, an emergency department bed space, the interior of an ambulance and a CT scanner room. The student was than able to take the recorded footage away and use their College's editing facilities to create the first edit of the four videos. Following our visit, several training staff within the hospital expressed an interest in coming to see the content when it is being used to create the immersive environment, as they feel the facility may be of benefit to them.

Challenges:
Unfortunately the first lockdown relating to the COVID-19 pandemic came into effect shortly after we recorded some of the locations within the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. Since all of the other locations we had planned to visit are connected to the emergency services, their priorities and the continued COVID-19 restrictions have meant that we have been unable to carry out further recordings. We have also been unable to test the first edits of the recorded footage the student created for us with our projection facilities and this has therefore meant we've been unable to evaluate their effectiveness.

Next Steps:

Whilst the COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on this project, we intend to store the recorded content created by the student in our library of resources and test it as soon as possible after the restrictions are eased. We will then be looking to reconnect with the contacts we had made within the other locations, so that we can build up the library of resources. Finally, we will have our undergraduate medical students evaluate the effectiveness of the recorded content in creating an immersive simulation environment for them.