Promoting Health Information Literacy to the Wider Community

The *Mini-Med School* Experience

Lorie Kloda
McGill Life Sciences Library
CHLA 2006
McGill

2001 – 2004  Mini-Med I
2005 – 2006  Mini-Med II
MINI MEDI at McGill University

2005

Would you like to understand how a doctor thinks and approaches clinical problems?
Are you a science buff with an appetite for medical knowledge?
Do you find new medical technology and terminology overwhelming?

If you answered yes to any of the above, you will want to sign up for the fall session of the McGill Mini-Med School II.

The Faculty of Medicine, McGill University is offering an 8-week lecture series for the public, taught by McGill professors.

Registration Information
Advance registration and payment is required.
Cost for series: $75.00 ($55.00 for students and seniors)
No refunds after September 15, 2005
Website: www.med.mcgill.ca/minimed
E-mail: minimed.med@mcgill.ca
Tel: (514) 937-5785

Space limited! Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis

Please make your cheque payable to: McGill Mini-Med School II
and send with this form to:
McGill Mini-Med School II
Faculty of Medicine, McGill University
3655 Promenade Sir-William-Osler, Dean's Office
Montreal, Quebec H3G 1Y6

☐ Adult  ☐ Student  ☐ Senior (65+)

Last Name:
First Name:
“Information literacy and consumer health are natural allies, both contributing to health and quality of life for all citizens. Programs that address and combine these two important issues will facilitate the empowerment of consumers to participate actively in the information age.”

66% of Canadians with Internet access visit health related sites on a monthly basis.
Canadians’ preferred sources of health information:

1. Health professionals
2. Internet
3. Radio
4. Television
5. Newspapers
Community Outreach

Why or why not?

1. A need is expressed from outside the academy

2. Library mission invites action

3. Response to a specific problem or opportunity
Barrier to doing outreach:

- No credit
- Higher level of participation expected
- Fit with Library priorities
Benefits to doing outreach:

• Transferable skills
• Research/project funding
• Satisfaction of a job well-done
PHYSIOLOGY LINKS

Anatomy & Physiology
US National Cancer Institute’s Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) Program

SEER’s web-based training modules are designed to help you gain a basic understanding of the structure and function of the human body. All the systems of the human body are included.

Kidney Learning System
National Kidney Foundation

Educational site. Follow the links on the left-side panel.

Renal Physiology
McGill University Faculty of Medicine & Molson Informatics Projects

http://sprojects.mmi.mcgill.ca/nephrology
“This site is an aid to understanding renal physiology and is intended to complement the lectures by Dr. Prichard in Unit 2 of the Basis of Medicine & Dentistry. It is addressed to first year students in medicine and dentistry.”

Your Kidneys and How They Work
National Kidney and Urologic Diseases Information Clearinghouse

Consumer education about kidneys and their diseases.
Finding and Evaluating Health Information on the Net
A Guide for Mini-Med School Participants

Searching for health information on the internet can be frustrating. How do we locate relevant health information? By what criteria do we judge the retrieved information to determine its usefulness to you, your friends, or your family?

Here are some quick guidelines:

Finding Health Information Online

If possible, begin with a reliable source. When looking for a specialist, you wouldn’t just open the yellow pages and pick the first name listed, would you? The best bet is to get a referral from a trusted professional. The same principle applies to health information: Start with a website recommended by a health professional or a librarian.

Evaluating Health Information Online

Ask yourself a few basic questions about the web page and information found

1. Who authored this information and how credible are they?
   - The author/sponsor should be clearly identified on the page with its affiliation and contact address.
Links to relevant websites for each lecture topic, as well as questions and answers for the sessions from **Mini-Med II** can be accessed below. Also, please consult our guide to finding and evaluating health information on the net:

**Finding and Evaluating Health Information on the Net**  
**A Guide for Mini-Med School Participants**

[Library Workshop links](#)

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Mini-Med School II is excited to offer a hands-on computer workshop at the Health Sciences Library, given by consumer health librarians!

This one hour workshop will include:

- A tour of credible health websites and medical search engines
- Tips on finding reliable health information on the web

When: Wednesday evenings before Mini-Med School II, 4:45-6:00PM

Where: Health Sciences Library electronic classroom 3rd floor McIntyre Medical Sciences Building

Cost: $10.00 (cash) payable at the 1st Mini-Med School II lecture

WORKSHOPS WILL BE GIVEN IN ENGLISH

Space is limited! Registration is on a first-come first-served basis! Only 25 applicants per evening can be accepted!

If you are interested, please fill in the required information and mail to:

Name: ___________________________ Tel. ___________________________

Email: ___________________________
Library Workshop Links

Health Information: Prevention, Disorders, Treatments, News

Canadian Health Network
Public Health Agency of Canada

Canadian Health Portal
Government of Canada

Household Products Database
U.S. National Library of Medicine

Lab Tests Online
American Association for Clinical Chemistry

Medline Plus
U.S. National Library of Medicine

NOAH
New York Online Access to Health

Women's Health Matters
Sunnybrook & Women's College Health Sciences Centre

Drug & Complementary Medicine Information

Drug InfoNet
HerbMed
Alternative Medicine Foundation

To see the full list: http://www.medicine.mcgill.ca/minimed/otherlinks.htm#library
Library Workshops

Led by health sciences librarian and facilitated by librarian and library technicians

$10 charge

Offered on 4 occasions prior to lectures, 1 hour in length

12% (48 / 389) Mini-Med participants registered

High-level of interaction, satisfaction
Workshop planning & design

• Question → Search
  Prevention, disease/condition, drug search, household hazards, [lab tests]

• Varied depending on level of participants and questions

• Evaluating health information (online and print)

• Directories and CHI centres
Lessons learned

• To be successful, outreach partnerships require full attention, understanding, and priority
• Combining community outreach and regular duties is difficult
• Typical library program/task-oriented atmosphere not conducive to type of effort required for community outreach
• University/home institution may not appreciate your efforts