

Title : **electronic Preparation for Professional Practice using PebblePad as a Personal Learning Space**

Dr Eileen O'Leary, Lecturer in Organic and Pharmaceutical Chemistry, School of Pharmacy & Department of Chemistry, University College Cork & Debbie Holmes, Implementation Consultant for Health, PebblePad

Abstract:

At University College Cork the aim is to support both staff and students via an electronic platform. We wanted staff to have easy access to student assignments and to be able to provide regular formative feedback. At the same time we wanted to provide staff with their own personal learning space in which they could document their own Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

In conjunction with this, key goals for student learning included the provision of an electronic platform:

1. To document and record learning, achievement of competencies and CPD
2. To reflect on clinical practice and impromptu learning – a form of electronic diary
3. To facilitate access to digital resources that may be used to fulfil individuals learning or training needs

In our quest for suitable technology and a clear understanding of what students need to facilitate a transition to professional practice a student focus group was held., Four key themes emerged:

1. Work-place Tutors need guidance on what students need from the placement experience, that is, a way of identifying knowledge gaps in order focus on these during the placement
2. Students want increased standardisation of experience across placements and opportunities to learn from each other's experiences by documenting and sharing cases
3. Students felt they did not know enough about the role of other healthcare professionals and would like a greater emphasis on Inter professional Learning (IPL)
4. Students wanted a technology that is readily available and usable on mobile devices via an App!

The data showed that PebblePad can provide students with a personal learning space. It can be developed as a way for teachers to have an enhanced view of student learning and to provide feedback and support to help students evolve.