

## **Podcasting as a Delivery Tool for Education in Anesthesia and Critical Care Education**

Nahel N. Saied M.D., Pete Towns M.D., Erica Curry M.D., Jeffery Gardner

*St. Louis University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri*

**Learner audience:** *Anesthesiologists, Anesthesia residents, Medical Students, Nurse anesthetists and anesthesia assistants.*

### **Needs Assessment:**

1. Educational material fails to reach all intended audiences (residents and medical students) since there is a lack of convenient access to such resources.
2. There are deficiencies to easy access of Up-to-date education by practicing anesthesiologists, nurse anesthetist and other anesthesia trainee.

**Curriculum:** In this project, we recorded the audio of the educational activities listed below and made them available on the Internet through 2 major channels; on the podcasting section of the Apple iTunes music store and as web browser accessible files at [www.AnesthesiaPodcast.com](http://www.AnesthesiaPodcast.com). Our training program provides didactics to medical students, anesthesia residents and staff in 3 main ways; Formal lectures, Grand rounds (by visiting professors and distinguished faculties) and Chairman's Talks. Chairman's Talks are weekly lectures prepared by residents about basic anesthesia knowledge, which are based on deficiencies identified by the in-training exam and are followed by a discussion lead by the department's chairman. Podcasts (Audio and video files) accompanied by the slides with a printable version are posted weekly.

**Impact:** As of December 2006, we posted 49 episodes (Figure 1). There was an overwhelming response from the anesthesia community to the anesthesia Podcasts. The number of subscriber to the 3 programs nearly doubled every 2 months (Figure 2). In December, listeners downloaded 90 GB (3000 episodes) through iTunes, and we received 5,658 unique visitor on the website. While the program succeeded in allowing residents and students who were unable to attend lectures due to outside rotations or other clinical duties to access the educational material, the national and international response was a total surprise. We have subscribers from around the world as identified by Google searches and users' feedback. Podcasting in anesthesia education is at its infancy and utilizing such medium for education has just begun. Other educational activates, which may benefit from such technology are simulation, Journal clubs and guided small group discussions.



Figure 1: Anesthesia Grand Rounds Podcast on iTunes

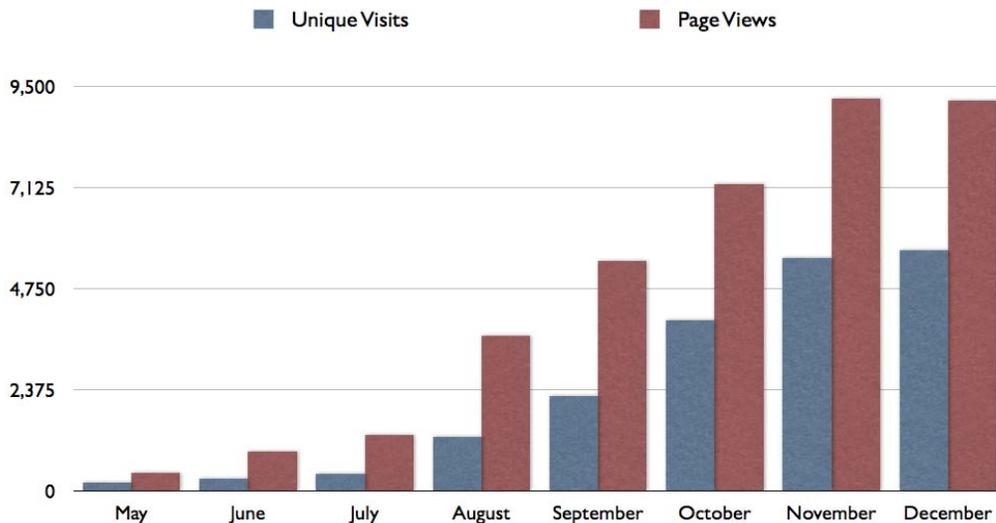


Figure 2: [www.AnesthesiaPodcast.com](http://www.AnesthesiaPodcast.com) access statistics in 2006