Teaching how millennials learn – Re-vamping medical ethics

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Abstract:
The demands of medical workforce are constantly changing and curriculum re-development as an ongoing project is required to keep up to date. The educational facilities available to us and the way students now learn has also undergone a revolution in recent years. Millennials now make up the majority of our university students. The characteristics of these students have strongly influenced both content and delivery of teaching matter and format as we continually go through curriculum re-design. This generation of learners has also been moulded by a unique set of cultural influences that are essential for medical educators to consider in all aspects of their teaching. Millennials are typically thought to have a deep understanding of, and appreciation for, technology and social connectedness. They expect aesthetically pleasing learning tools which are fun and provide immediate satisfaction. They also like collaborative learning and accept diversity. With these characteristics in mind, I have developed a number of new teaching and learning innovations to match them, such as the Ethics Toolbox and the podcast SLLIM pickings. Feedback on these innovations has been overwhelmingly positive and as we move forward, assessment of impact of learning also needs also to be investigated.