IMPROVING PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE IN THE FIELD OF IMMUNODEFICIENCIES THROUGH CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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PROJECT
ESID Education Portal – Creating an online portal for medical educational materials
Content on demand in support of lifelong learning: Improving healthcare professional (HCP) practice, and ultimately patient outcomes.

SUCCESS ACHIEVED
With this service the association has taken one more step towards enabling its community to stay on top of the latest innovations in the field, giving all members one more tool towards improving the awareness, diagnosis, treatment, education and understanding of immunodeficiency diseases.

ORGANISATION
European Society for Immunodeficiencies (ESID)
Kenes Group – Education team

DATES
Launch September 2016
Ongoing educational activities offered

CATEGORIES
eLearning, Professional development

INTRODUCTION
Members of the European Society of Immunodeficiencies (ESID), like other HCP’s need to maintain the knowledge, skills, attitudes and abilities required in their working lives, while also learning about the latest developments and how they apply to the care they provide. They also need to maintain their professional standards and are looking to the society, ESID, to assist them.

WHAT WAS NEEDED TO ASSIST MEMBERS IN THEIR EDUCATIONAL NEEDS?
Keeping up-to-date with the latest knowledge and skills in the field of immunodeficiency is an essential aspect for providing good medical care and improve patient outcomes. ESID recognised this and consulted with third-party Kenes and their Education team. Following the needs assessment a solution was offered – an online learning portal with innovative and interactive case-studies based on real situations.

Maintaining good knowledge, share experiences and getting access to learning materials whenever and wherever you want, requires blended learning methods - where online education is offered next to the live meetings.

The ESID Education Portal was launched in September 2016, including different educational materials.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND EDUCATIONAL STRATEGY
ESID and the Education team has closely collaborated to outline the educational needs, educational objectives, and format & content delivery, which has guided the educational portal design, and creation. From this research the following aim for the ESID Education Portal has been established:

Enabling members to gain knowledge, skills, and understanding in the area of primary immunodeficiency as well as the organization of care in primary immunodeficiency, and thereby contribute to their personal and professional development. Learners will develop their clinical skills, including their capacity to interact appropriately with affected individuals.

This broad goal has been broken down into SMART learning objectives. In order to improve the care in immunodeficiencies, different cases have been created using different educational materials.

OUTCOMES MEASUREMENT
Outcomes of the activities on the ESID Education Portal are measured using various data sources as indicated in the framework below.

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION
• ESID has 1440 members, and 636 members have registered for the ESID portal. 172 users of the ESID Education Portal have completed one or more of the case studies. • ESID 2016 Meeting (17th Biennial Meeting) saw notably the highest activity (265 views) among ESID members• Most popular ePoster activity to date is ‘ePOSTER Topic: Innate Immunity - Part I’, boasting 159 views by 87 users. • Most popular webinar to date is ‘WEBCAST: Clinical Approach in Understanding Complex Congenital Autoimmunity’, 171 views by 69 users

PRE/POST TESTS
For the case studies a pre- and post- test are designed to measure changes in both knowledge and competence. Attendees must answer at least 70% of the questions correctly to obtain a certificate.

COURSE EVALUATION
Measured is the overall satisfaction with the case studies, the degree to which the objectives were met, intention to change, and any additional comments/feedback. The feedback received has been very positive and for most case studies, users agree that this activity will help them further in their professional practice.

Analysis of data from the case studies confirmed that for more than 80% of the users, this activity helped them further in their professional practice.

Based on these findings, we conclude that case studies delivered via the portal supports HCP’s clinical approach for the majority of users.

CHALLENGES
With technology playing an important role in content delivery nowadays, but also being one of our main stressors when not used right, the challenge we had with this project is arriving at the correct user-friendly solution, while delivering content in the most practical way in order to address the educational needs of the ESID community.

1 Treatment guidelines: provide general options for a broad group of patients 2 Clinical practice: Clinicians must make decisions for specific patients