

## Podcasting: Emerging Form of Virtual Clinical Education

*“Podcasting’s essence is about creating content (audio or video–vodcasts) for an audience that wants to listen/watch when they want, where they want, and how they want.”*

**Podcast** is a collection of digital media files which is distributed over the Internet using syndication feeds. It can be played on portable media players and personal computers. The method by which the content is syndicated is termed podcasting. ‘**Podcasting**’ originates from a combination of ‘broadcasting’ and ‘iPod’, and refers to distributing content (audio and video) on MP3 players, handheld devices and personal computers using Web feeds or syndication formats like RSS and Atom. The host or author of a podcast is called a **podcaster**(1-3).

Users can listen to podcasts and watch vodcasts on their computer (e.g., using Windows Media Player), or download to portable MP3/MP4 player or iPod and listen/watch anywhere on the move. That makes it a perfect tool of updating for the busy health professional. What makes a podcast different from a normal audio file hosted online is that you can subscribe, so it will automatically download to your computer whenever a new episode of a particular show is released. Some of the educational applications of podcasting and videocasting are listed:

- Medical professional can stay updated with the recent medical literature ‘on-the-go.’
- Recordings of lectures for those students unable to attend the lecture in person.
- Audio recordings of textbook content by chapter allowing students to ‘read; or review texts while on move.
- Downloadable libraries of high resolution heart and respiratory sounds for medical students.

## SELECTED MEDICAL PODCASTS

- Clinical podcast:** <http://www.clinicalpodcast.com/>
- JAMA :** <http://jama.ama-assn.org/misc/audiocomm-entary.dtl>
- Journal club for cardiology:** <http://conversations.acc.org/>
- Journal club for critical care:** <http://www.sccm.org/SCCM/Publications/iCritical+Care/>
- Lancet:** <http://www.thelancet.com/audio>
- My medical podcasts:** <http://www.mymedicalpodcasts.co.uk/>
- Nature:** <http://www.nature.com/nature/podcast/index.html>
- New England Journal of Medicine:** <http://content.nejm.org/misc/podcast.dtl>
- NIH Podcasts:** <http://www.nih.gov/news/radio/podcast/nihpodcastarchive.htm>
- Department of Pediatrics University of Arizona:** <http://www.peds.arizona.edu/residency/podcast.asp>
- Department of Emergency Medicine, University of Iowa:** [http://haven.its.uiowa.edu/content/com/emerg\\_med/podcast.xml](http://haven.its.uiowa.edu/content/com/emerg_med/podcast.xml)

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