

Engagement in science: virtual interaction as a flexible tool



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INTRODUCTION

The pandemic lockdowns blocked regular in person contacts. How did we maintain active science networking and engagement? Anyone can do it, it's flexible and it's user friendly.

METHODS

Here, specific situations are presented, showing successful examples of:

- events which became virtual because of a sudden tsunami of covid cases;
- activities which became hybrid avoiding unnecessary institution overcrowding.

RESULTS: ADAPTation, EVOLution, Upgrading, Virtual connections, REINVENTION

Examples of flexible adaptations:

- virtual reinvention of the in-person event on "rare disease®" day

- innovative upgrading in the approach to education programs at an UP institution

Please scan the code for more information about the work carried out at INSA -Porto and about the author

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Points of "virtual fatigue" as well as points of "virtual satisfaction" require balance. A hybrid option with hands-on contact and virtual tutoring seems to provide a good balance for interaction with students. The use of digital platforms for events (such as ASHG, among others) allows the connection with peers in far locations without the hassle and expense of travelling.

CONCLUSION

Distance is no longer an obstacle to interaction and connection; specially during times of financial, or other, restraints this possibility should remain a sustainable option.

REFERENCES: please scan the codes for details

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