Reviewer's report

Title: Supporting experiential learning in collaborative Web-based patient education

Version: 1 Date: 7 October 2008

Reviewer: Diane J Skiba

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary Revisions

I would introduce the notion of Web 2.0 tools earlier in the paper, perhaps before your section on "collaboration in Web-based patient education". You mention the tools but you might want to discuss how the web has transformed from passive to interactive and is now more driven towards user's involvement in creating content. It is more about social software as you mention later in the paper.

I think it would be helpful to have a more detailed example of applying Kolb's experiential learning model. It does not seem to fit...is it a model to be used for future research or future development? Does it help to explain why people like the social aspects and talking with each other regarding their diseases or their treatments?

I think you might want to also elaborate about the "wisdom of crowds" framework and how that seems to permeate the web. You might want to include the recent work of Sarasohn-Kahn. See www.chcf.org/topics/view.cfm?ite

It would be helpful to position where this movement fits with the drive for more consumer centric care? Should more health care professionals use these new tools to create more consumer centric tools associated with their clinics or hospitals? Where does this fit with the movement of Personal Health Records? I recognize these are bigger topics but you might want to consider mentioning them at least in the discussion part and how they might be investigated more fully in future research and development.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I would like to declare I write a column on emerging technologies in nursing and in that column I do speak about web 2.0 tools and their uses in nursing
education.