A Medical Educator’s Guide to #MedEd
Andrew Micelli, MMi, medical student, Jason R. Frank, MD, professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, and Alireza Jalali, MD, teaching chair, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ottawa

- Twitter is a growing social media platform in medical education. This forum is facilitated by the use of the hashtag (#).
- The hashtag/word combo #MedEd is used for tweets related to medical education and is the gold standard for medical education news on Twitter.

Why consider Twitter for medical education?
The purpose of this Last Page is to educate novice, but frequent “tweeters” (i.e., Twitter users) on the possible uses of Twitter in medical education by...
- Highlighting the usefulness of #MedEd as an educational tool in independent learning and teaching
- Explaining how to search and customize your Twitter feed for high-quality medical education news
- Considering the future of #MedEd among Twitter users

#MedEd is an educational tool for medical educators and medical students. It’s a forum for...
- Links to news or journal articles
- Medical educators discussing teaching strategies
- Trending news about postgraduate training programs
- Real-time content from health care conferences
- Study tools (students tweet questions to each other)
- Targeted campaigns from special medical interest groups

Permission to reprint MediChat tweet granted by Ryan Madanick, MD. Permission to use AMA logo and tweet granted by American Medical Association.

Using, Personalizing, and Optimizing #MedEd
To the right is a flow chart highlighting the different options medical educators have for searching and customizing their Twitter page for #MedEd. The pathway individual educators choose more often will depend on how frequently they use Twitter, their career and preferences, their reasons for using Twitter, and their social media influence (i.e., their number of followers).

Future of #MedEd
There has been a dramatic increase over time in both #MedEd tweets (see figure to the left) and in Twitter users using this hashtag. This increase may be leveraged for personalized teaching and learning in the classroom setting. For example, professors have successfully displayed live stream Twitter chats so students can post questions for concurrent viewing and discussion during lectures.

References

Author contacts (on Twitter):
Micelli: @mmicelli
Frank: @jfrank62
Jalali: @ajalali

Author contact (via e-mail):
Micelli: micelli@med.ottawa.ca