



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

Use of eLearning for Teaching Continuing Education in Dentistry at The Aga Khan University

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Background – About AKU

- International University
- Started in Pakistan with one teaching site
- Over its > 25-year history, expanded to 11 teaching sites in eight countries
- Teaching sites spread across three continents
– Asia, Africa, and Europe



Background – Why eLearning?

- AKU's multi-campus nature makes communication/coordination between teaching sites a problem
- AKU has teaching sites where there is political instability
 - Difficult to form new and maintain existing partnerships, especially in teaching and capacity-building of its staff and students

So we turned to eLearning...

About the Pilot Project

- The residency program in Dental Surgery offered in AKU Karachi chosen for pilot
- Aim: to supplement standard residency training with eLearning
- Dental Surgery residents received bi-weekly online lectures by guest speakers from abroad in a variety of specialities, especially those for which there is little expertise available locally

Mode of Delivery

- Elluminate Live! chosen as the mode of delivery for these lectures
 - Allows for two-way, synchronous (i.e. real-time) communication
 - Consumes very low Internet bandwidth
 - Hands-on training was given to residents on how to use Elluminate

The Elluminate Live! Interface

The screenshot displays the Elluminate Live! interface for a session titled "PROFESSOR REED'S SEMESTER 1 ROOM". The interface is divided into several key areas:

- Participants Window:** Located on the left, it lists participants: Amanda, Caroline, Sarah, Mike, and Tom. It includes icons for muting, unmuting, and other participant actions. A status bar indicates "2 of 5 Hands Raised".
- Chat Window:** Below the participants list, it shows a chat history with the message "move to this weeks topic." and a new message from Sarah: "Sarah: Hey Mike - can you send me your notes from last week?".
- Audio Window:** At the bottom left, it features a microphone icon, a volume slider, and a "Talk" button. A status indicator shows "Teleconference available".
- Whiteboard Window:** The central area displays a whiteboard titled "Whiteboard - Main Room". It contains a detailed anatomical diagram of a tooth cross-section with the following labels:
 - Mineralized dentin
 - Predentin
 - Nerve ending
 - Odontoblast
 - Odontoblastic nucleus
 - Cell-free zone
 - Cell-rich zone
 - Subodontoblastic plexus of nerves and capillariesThe diagram is labeled "C" in the bottom right corner. A "World Map" navigation bar is visible above the whiteboard content.

At the bottom right of the interface, a status bar indicates "In session for 47 minutes." The window title bar includes standard Windows window controls (minimize, maximize, close).

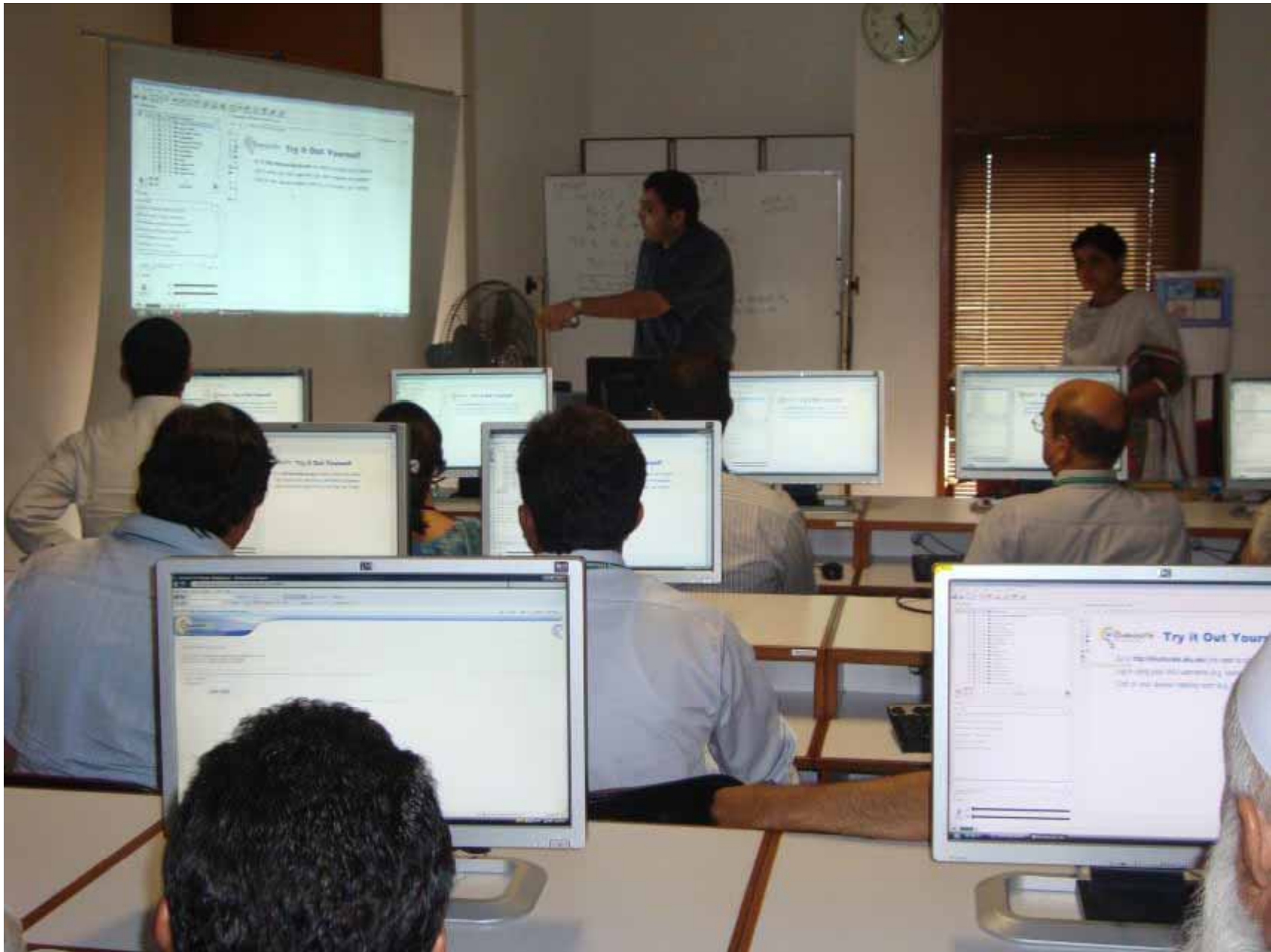
Details of Elluminate Sessions

- Each session evaluated to measure and maintain quality and participant satisfaction
- Sessions found to be of high quality with **minimal voice disruptions**, and **satisfaction** of participants, including facilitator(s), found to be above **90 percent**
- Initially, only one guest lecturer and about 20 residents participated in the sessions
- Number of guest lecturers has grown to four, and over 100 residents from AKU Karachi, AKU Nairobi and three other Pakistani Dental Colleges continue to benefit from the sessions

AKU Karachi Dentistry Residents at a Typical Elluminate Session







Conclusion

- eLearning using Elluminate Live! has enabled AKU's Dental Surgery residents to successfully tap into international expertise and engage in collaboration
- Elluminate is starting to become an integral part of the Dentistry residency program and continues to be used today

Thanks!