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**Intellectual Property Rights and the online sharing of medical educational content: a focus group study accounting for educator and student perspectives**

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**Background:** It is nowadays true that, many organizations are studying how medical educational content existing in diverse digital forms, should be shared among academics (and/or students) through specific sharing frameworks enabled by different technologies. Towards this direction the meducator project aims to enable specialized state-of-the-art medical educational content to be discovered, retrieved, shared and re-used across European higher academic institutions.

**Summary of work:** Resolution of the involved Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) on this content is not only a timely issue but a compulsory task. In this paper, focus groups were organized and conducted in 3 Medical Schools in Greece in order to investigate the familiarization/knowledge and the feeling of educators and post-graduate learners regarding sharing, retrieval and reuse of online medical educational content.

**Summary of results:** Our research revealed the general lack of knowledge on IPR issues and the prejudice against illegal use of existing freely accessible material. To this extend, skepticisms regarding the sharing of licensed state-of-the-art medical educational content were obvious.

**Conclusions:** It was also evident that licensing schemes like the Creative Commons can ensure the legal use of all types of online medical education content, from text to exam sheets, algorithms, teaching files, computer programs (simulators or games) and interactive objects (like virtual patients and electronically traced anatomies).

**Take-home messages:** It is imperative that a number of attempts should be urged towards informing the medical academic community on how to properly and legally share, retrieve and reuse different medical education content types.

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