Interactive teaching and learning in mycology: Malaysian experience

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Interactive teaching and learning in Basic Mycology course were introduced to undergraduate students. Through the whole curriculum the new elective problem-oriented subjects are offered for students, which involved formal lectures, case studies with associated question and problem with intensive laboratory exercise, short assays and seminar. Adoption of problem-based learning system also incorporates innovative use of interactive multimedia and team-based coursework and emphasis placed on collaborative learning. The underlying aim is to get the student to understand the sources for the organism, classification, type of sample, as well as how to analyze a problem which they not see initially within the field of mycology. Student respond to the initial materials is very encouraging. It was observed that more opportunity was provided for students to develop written and oral communication skills. Students took more responsibility for there own learning such as they acquire new information from a variety of source and higher cognitive skills were sought and demonstrated in the presentation of seminar and essays.