



Cystic Fibrosis Research News

Title:

E-learning within the European Cystic Fibrosis Society - A multidisciplinary cross-sectional survey.

Lay Title:

A survey of how the CF team use online learning.

Authors:

C. Smith^a, H.K. Chadwick^b, K. Hill^{c,d} and D.G Peckham^b, on behalf of the European Cystic Fibrosis Society Education committee

Affiliations:

- a. Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital, Brighton, United Kingdom
- b. Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Leeds, United Kingdom
- c. Queen's University, Belfast, United Kingdom

What was your research question?

- 1) *How does our international community of cystic fibrosis (CF) health professionals (doctors, nurses, physiotherapists etc.) use e-learning to stay up to date?*
- 2) *What is good and bad about e-learning?*
- 3) *What do they think about the education platform created by the European Cystic Fibrosis Society (ECFS)?*

Why is this important?

Doctors and healthcare staff working in CF need to keep up to date (commonly called continued professional development or CPD) with the latest advances to make sure that people with CF have the best care.

The speed of progress and change in the management of CF coupled with the strains on time and funding can make this a challenge.

Online education information (e-learning) such as webinars may be a good way to address several of these challenges as it's flexible, time efficient, and low cost. Condition (e.g., CF) specific online education platforms may improve this further by storing e-learning resources all in one place and providing some quality control. The ECFS Education Committee was set up in 2016 and runs an online education platform.

Cystic Fibrosis Research News

What did you do?

The ECFS Education Committee made an online survey to explore views of e-learning, and the ECFS-EP.

This was sent via the conference app, emails and within the society subgroups (e.g., nurses, physios etc) at the ECFS annual conference in Vienna in 2023.

The survey collected data between June and September 2023 using electronic data collection (SurveyMonkey.com).

What did you find?

547 people completed the survey from 58 countries; 57% of people who answered were ECFS members. A wide range of healthcare staff answered the survey including 198 (36%) doctors. Most people who answered the survey (63%) spent 6 or more hours a week on their professional education. Online education platforms were used either weekly (34%) or monthly (37%); people preferred articles and medium length (15-30 minutes) webinars.

Availability of information in different languages on Education Platforms was one of the top 3 priorities (34% of people who answered the survey voted for this). This increased to 43% when only looking at responses from people who did not have English as their first language.

54% of people who answered the survey had used the ECFS-EP and liked it especially for the quality of its content.

What does this mean and reasons for caution?

The survey tells us a lot about how and what the CF community (doctors, healthcare professionals and researchers) want to support their CPD.

Whilst lots of people completed it from lots of different countries the survey was only in English and this might have stopped some people from completing it if English was not their first language. Therefore, it may not represent everyone's view.

What's next?

The results tell us that the ECFS-EP is valued and gives the Education Committee guidance on priority topics, preferred type of information and barriers that need work when creating educational resources. One such barrier is language. Most information on the ECFS-EP is mainly in English. Work has already started to make information in other languages such as Ukrainian, Turkish and Romanian.



Cystic Fibrosis Research News

The ECFS Education Committee will continue to work to support, make and collect high quality, easy to access educational information to support our community.

Original manuscript citation in PubMed

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38997825/>

Cystic Fibrosis Research News

cfresearchnews@gmail.com