

Models: building blocks for pharmacy education

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Almost 50 years ago Watson and Crick developed DNA models to explain how DNA was the building blocks of all life. Since then, various computerized models have been developed to explain everything from disease states to designer drugs. Pharmacy students in South Africa often battle with newer technologies such as nanotechnology, gene therapy and stem cell research because they don't understand the fundamental concepts or how DNA results in protein expression. As part of the Problem-based learning methodology of the pharmacy programme we have developed DNA models for students to encourage interactive learning that is cost-effective and will allow students to master learning in this area. We report on the experiences of students using these models and the benefit to their overall performance.