

Top of your class (TYC)

A game based e-learning environment

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Text

Based on one of the most popular game television shows (“Wer wird Millionär”, RTL) we developed a web-based learning quiz for Medical Microbiology. Students are asked to answer questions from the field of Medical Microbiology. For every question the student can choose between four answer options, only one of which is correct. With each correct answer the student is rewarded by advancing one level on a scale ranging from high school graduate to department head. While the starting questions are silly and cheerful and can be answered by common knowledge, the level of difficulty rises to more specific microbiological questions and ends with questions that are even challenging experts in the field. If a question cannot be answered the student can choose one of a total of three jokers for help. To enhance the learning process each question is coupled to a short comment explaining the correct answer in a few sentences. The application consists of a pool of

questions where each contains the questions text, four possible answers and an explanation. Questions are categorized into one of five difficulty levels. For the implementation of the web based environment Flash MX, PHP and XML technologies were used. Medical Microbiology represents an ideal topic for this type of quiz because the students have to learn many different new microbial organisms and multiple facts about each of them. The platform can easily be adapted to other topics and offers a novel and very enjoyable e-learning experience.

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