

Student-Led Final Year Discussion Groups

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Final Year Discussion Groups

Why are they needed?

- 1 Faculty, 23 Degree Programmes, intake of 600
- Students split up from regular working groups
- Large volume of material
- Large gap between lectures and exams

Historical Context

- 2007-08: *Stem Cells Study Sessions*
- 2 sessions, 15 students at each
- Reassuring
- Did not go deep into the material

What I learned...

- More organisation
- More support
- More sessions
- Split the responsibility

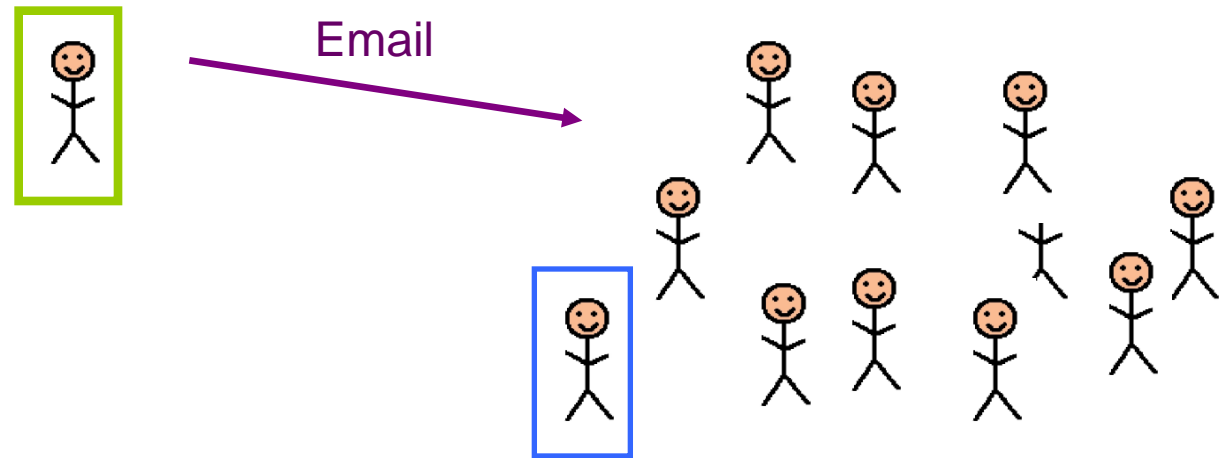
2008-09: Final Year Discussion Groups

Aims

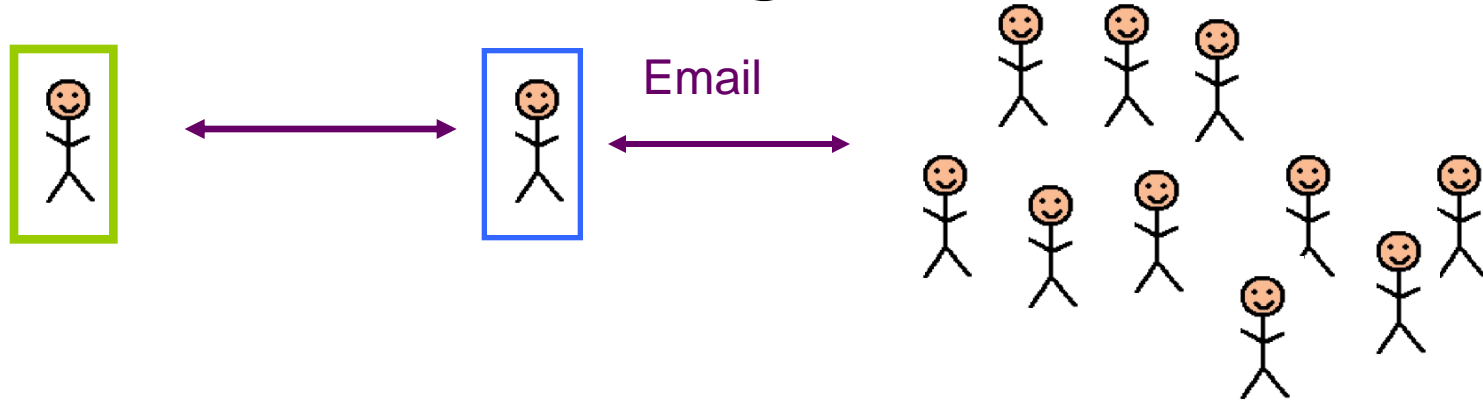
- Collaborative - lecture content and background reading
- Different degree programmes or overlapping units - variety of perspectives
- Develop transferable skills

How did we do this?

- Proposal document
- Faculty support but not 'do it for them'
- Identification of Group Coordinators



How were the groups set up?



Poll: Advanced Neuropharmacology Discussion Group

Summary: 48 participants, 0 comments

[more ...](#)

John Denton has created this poll.

"Students subscribing voluntarily to the group would meet once a week or once a fortnight for ab hours throughout the semester."

	Mon 23												
	09:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00	17:00	09:00	10:00	11:00	12:00
eliza kalk									OK				
Yiwen Dong	OK	OK	OK			OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	
Ewan MacDonald	OK					OK	OK	OK			OK	OK	
Kirsty Ingram								OK	OK				
Heather Eyre		OK				OK	OK				OK	OK	
Carly McKenzie			OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK		OK	OK	OK	OK
Dee Adebakin	OK												
Elizabeth Wright				OK	OK	OK	OK	OK			OK	OK	OK

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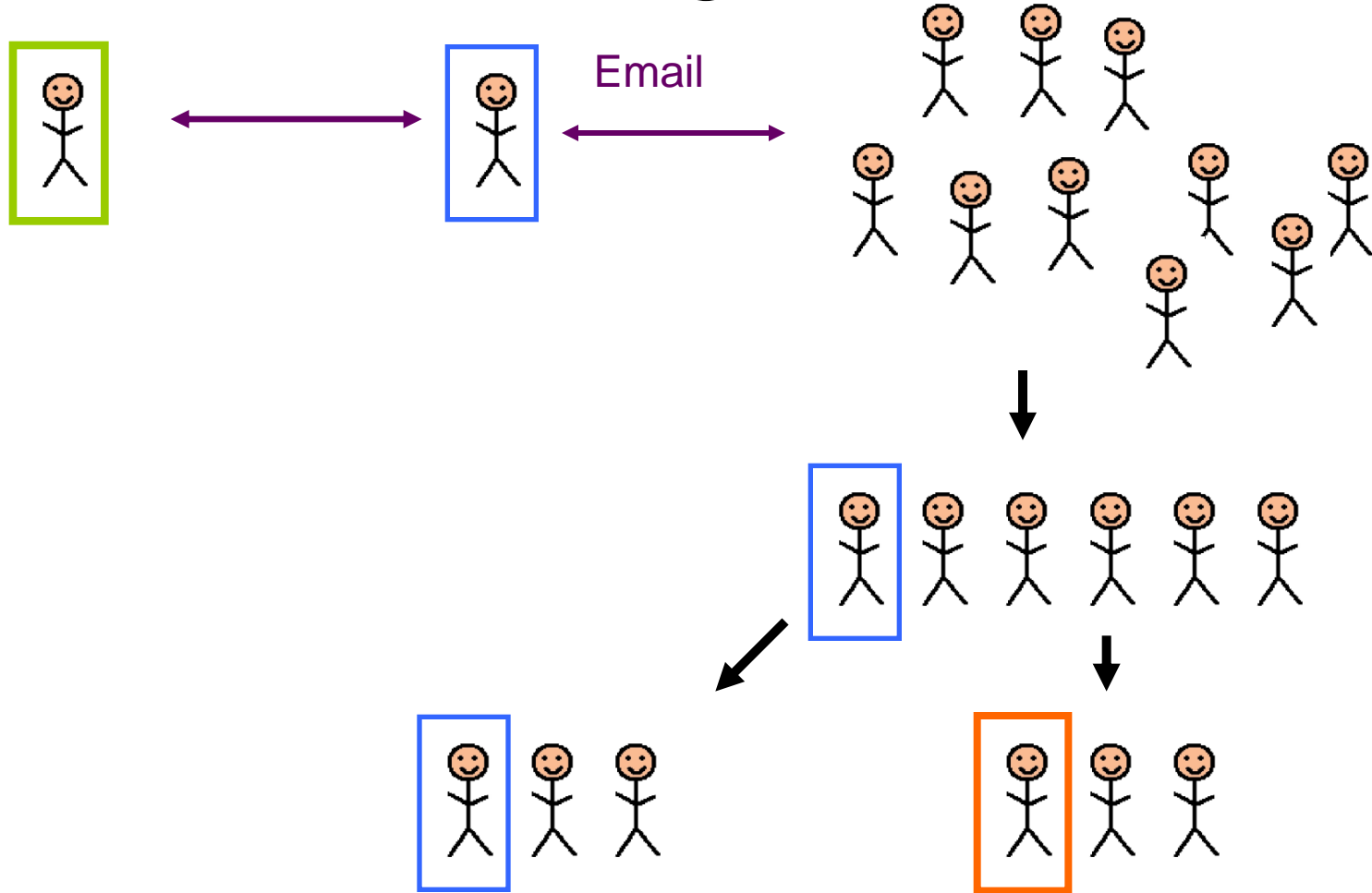
"Students subscribing voluntarily to the group would meet once a week or once a fortnight for ab hours throughout the semester."

“The biggest struggle was finding a suitable time...without Doodle it would have been a bit of a nightmare.”

- Group Coordinator

	09:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00	17:00	18:00	19:00	20:00	21:00	22:00
eliza kalk									OK					
Yiwei Ding	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	
Ewan MacDonald						OK	OK	OK				OK	OK	
Kirsty Ingram								OK	OK					
Heather Eyre		OK												
Carly McKenzie			OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK			OK	OK	OK	OK
Dee Adebakin	OK													
Elizabeth Wright				OK	OK	OK	OK	OK				OK	OK	OK

How were the groups set up?



Tuesday 16th June 2009

Student-led Final Year Discussion Groups

What happened?

- 14% of unit attended initial meetings
- 4 units supported
- 9 groups in total
- 5-12 per group
- 5-9 sessions
- Most met at 5pm

Evaluation

- Online questionnaire – emailed to 51 students, 15 responses
- Interviews with $\frac{3}{4}$ Group Coordinators, 1 non-attende, planned interviews with attendees

Were they useful?

- Very useful, friendly, focused, productive.
- All students would recommend attending a Discussion Group to next year's Final Year students.

How did the students benefit?

- Improved confidence with the material
- Able to draw links between concepts within the unit
- Able to see the lecture material in a wider context
- Improved communication skills, increased motivation to revise.

“I feel like it’s easier to communicate to people... there are no awkward silences. I am able to speak more clearly as well.”

How did the students benefit?

- What are the benefits of attending an organised Discussion Group?
 - Motivation
 - Centralised organisation
 - Recognised by Faculty

“It kick-started my revision...”

“You stay more focused and prepare for the sessions to avoid letting people down and keep to a good schedule yourself.”

“I meant to do this with friends on my course, but we never really got round to it...”

What next?

- Continuation of Evaluation
- Recommendations for next year:
 - Introduce in Welcome lecture
 - Start earlier
 - Improve the focus of the discussions
 - Feedback (what and how often?)