



Website and Social Media Committee mission...to communicate the goals and initiatives of the association, connect members with each other and resources, and advance the professional development of educators who use human simulation methods through website and social media interfaces.

Tips for SP Educators to Keep Their Knowledge Current

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We all have very busy work lives (and presumably lives outside work), so it can be difficult for educators to stay up to date with changes and developments relevant to our field. This is especially challenging for educators with significant operational responsibilities, where scholarship and professional development are largely left to one's free time. It can be challenging to go in search of new information, whereas updates that are pushed to the educators require less extra effort. To help with this ubiquitous problem, here are a few tips and resources to check out:

- **Google alerts.** Google allows you to set up automatic alerts for key words or phrases, or for general areas like "science". Some suggested phrases (in quotes) could be "medical simulation" or "professional education". You can also set how often you get the alerts (as it happens, once a day, once a week) so you're not overwhelmed with articles to read.
- **RSS feeds.** RSS feeds are also known as Really Simple Syndications or Rich Site Summaries. These send summaries from certain sites including journals directly to your email. This saves you time in having to remember to check the latest table of contents when new editions of journals are released. Some journals may have many options of RSS feeds so you can choose which ones are most interesting to you. High yield sources to sign up for may include key journals, such as [Academic Medicine](#) or [Medical Teacher](#), or automatic updates sponsored by professional societies such as [AMEE's MedEdWorld Select](#) or [MedEdPORTAL](#).
- **DocPhin.** This is a site that physicians use to keep themselves up to date within their fields and specialities. In DocPhin, you can set up alerts based on keywords relevant to you, such as "medical education" or "residents", set up alerts based on your home institution's publications (e.g., Rush University), and follow specific journals. You can access the updates through email or the app, with DocPhin prioritizing for you which articles are most likely to be relevant.



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- **Listservs**. Listservs are typically email accounts to which many people can subscribe in order to communicate with each other. They're typically used for asking questions, requesting input or shared resources, or discussing emerging issues in the field. Some particularly relevant ones are the [Dr-Ed](#) listserv, the [SP-Trainer listserv](#), and listservs sponsored by the [Association of American Medical Colleges](#) (AAMC).
- **ASPE social media**. Not sure if you have time to sign-up for all the above? Good news! I already am. I use the alerts I receive to come up with all the links that are shared through ASPE's social media pages. We have a Facebook page, a Linked In group, and a Twitter account (used primarily during conference season). You can find quick links to all our social media outlets from ASPE's website homepage in the upper right corner.

If you're wondering how I found these resources, the answer is that over time, I looked around. I googled, talked to colleagues about tools that worked for them, and checked out many resources (some of which didn't pan out). When in doubt, try searching. You may be the person to find the next great resource to share with your colleagues.