Action plan based on the student feedback received in the 2nd semester of the 2020/2021 academic year

Department: Anatomy, Histology and Embryology  
Faculty: Medicine

Our feedback on general comments by the students:

Regular courses
AOVANT458_1A
AOKANT667_2A
AOKANT674_1A

Examination (CV) courses
AOKANT667_1A
AOKANT674_2A

Major positive or negative points of criticism

- The results represent the opinion of approximately the 40-45% of medical students enrolled in the courses (except for the examination courses where only a few students provided feedback).
- In general, the department has received a favourable feedback from the students of the regular courses with the points in most aspects being higher than, or similar/equal to, the faculty average.
- There was one exception (Clinical Anatomy lectures) which scored generally far below the faculty average.
- CV students were generally unhappy concerning the level of attention and the availability of study materials.
- The highest scores were achieved in Macroscopical Anatomy, where all (but one) aspects have been given a higher mark than the faculty average. Here the students preferred the lectures compared to those in Microscopic Anatomy and Embryology.
- In both subjects the Students have been happy with their instructors even when the entire course was given a less positive feedback.
- The major strength of our teaching is that we have a high number of contact hours when the students may personally encounter their instructors and peers. And this urge to discuss the major points of a problem is reflected in the rather negative opinions concerning our online lectures.
- The weakest points seemed to concern the technical quality and clarity of the online lectures where students have found it hard to follow the material the more so when a lecture (video) was replaced by a narrated ppt.

What we plan to do about it:

- In the future we will hold our lectures with personal presence and provide the students with the lecture notes uploaded in moodle prior to the actual lecture time to aid the students to prepare for the topics.
- We will provide further study materials, mock tests and videos to help focussing on the major questions and to help prepare for the tests.
- We will encourage our colleagues and the demonstrators to apply interactive tests even during the classes, such as Kahoot.
- With the reshuffling of our curriculum, Embryology will be discussed parallel to Macroscopy as well as with Microscopical Anatomy.
Our feedback on specific comments on mandatory subjects:

AOKANT667_2A (Macroscopic Anatomy II)

Major points of criticism

- Although our students were generally happy with their instructors, they sometimes expressed a wish to have more internal tests which would motivate them to study.
- There were few complaints concerning the limited possibilities to see the specimens.
- Some students thought that too many of them were in one group so they were physically kept away from the specimen.
- Lack of interactivity in lectures, therefore they were not very helpful in acquiring the required knowledge.

What we plan to do about it:

- We will offer more study aids (narrated videos, pin tests) with which the students can better prepare for the Macroscopy classes.
- We will teach the development of organ systems parallel to their Morphology to give a better understanding of the functional and topographical relevances.
- During the practical classes, we will concentrate on the topics bearing relevance with the lecture material.
- We will provide the students with sufficient time to study the specimens as well as encouraging them to actively participate in the dissection work.
- We will encourage our colleagues to regularly test the knowledge of students while in the dissection room.

AOKANT674_1A (Microscopic Anatomy and Embryology I)

Major points of criticism

- Lectures and the classes were NOT interactive but rather descriptive.
- Lectures were hard to follow, they were not logical or didactic. AND they were not uploaded early enough to be viewed before the Histology classes.
- Students have found it very difficult to finish the material during the Histology laboratory classes.
- They could not link the lecture material to the practical classes (due to the online teaching).
- Students complained about the seats being unfit (not comfortable enough) for such long practical classes.
- They felt that they were left to their own devices with the Embryology topics, because there was no specific time assigned to discuss the steps of Human development.

What we plan to do about it:

- Lectures are now held with personal presence thus offering a possibility to students to discuss the more difficult questions with the lecturer (real time).
- Parts of Embryology will be discussed with Macroscopical Anatomy in the new curricular course (Macroscopical Anatomy and Embryology I) to offer a less strict regime to study Histology.
- We decrease the length of the practical classes and increase their frequency – there will be 2 shorter Histology laboratory classes instead of a long practical class.
- We encourage our colleagues to upload their presentations well ahead of the lecture that students may read them before the lecture.
- We will provide the students with more visual aids both prior and after the practical classes.
- We will encourage them to learn the theory of the actual topics (histological slides) prior to the class that they could well use the time to view the slides during the laboratory classes.
- We will make more practice tests available and enhance the interactivity of the subject.
Our feedback on specific comments on elective subjects:

AOVANT458_1A (Clinical Anatomy)

Major criticism
- no interactive lectures
- no circumscribed study material
- no topic list for the semifinal examination

What we plan to do about it:
- Lectures will be held with personal presence
- The subject will be updated to include more concise and interesting topics
- The lecturers will provide further study aids and literature sources to study from.
- Semifinal examinations will be held in the form of online (moodle) tests
- Students will be provided with practice tests to aid in their preparation for test
- The topic list of the semifinal examination will be published in the beginning of the semester

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