Conclusion

This study was conducted on a new animal anatomy and physiology eLearning website; the initial screen designs were developed for this study.

The purpose of this study was to test clarity of terms, icons, organization, and ease of navigation. The method employed was Interviews using a Paper Prototype with Blank Pages. Two sessions were conducted with two participants each for a total of four participants. Three of the participants are undergraduates majoring in Biology; the fourth participant is an undergraduate Biomedical Engineering major. The participants evaluated the product by completing five tasks and answering both closed and open ended questions after each task and at the end of all tasks. Participants had no problems completing tasks which entailed use of the left side navigation bar. They found the navigation, terms and organization easy to use. They did, however, have more difficulty completing tasks accessed through the tabs located at the lower right of the page, particularly the first task that utilized this area.

I also consulted a Graphic Designer. The designer found the grid layout to be very good. Some of the icons work, others need to be improved so they read correctly. It was suggested that the **Cross Section** icon be redesigned so that it reads more as a magnification of an object. The icon was redesigned accordingly for session 2. The diagram icon appears to be dominos; it was suggested that the icon be redesigned to look more like an actual filmstrip; the redesign was done for session 2. The discussion icon was found to look too much like text, but that is the intent of the design, and therefore was not redesigned.

After session 2, my recommendation is to move the tabs to another area of the screen. I also recommend further analysis of the icons; in particular, the use of the diagram and discussion icons.

Further study is required.
For session 1, the interview evaluation consisted of five tasks and twelve questions. The session did not last as long as expected. For subsequent studies, two or three tasks should be added. More post task questions, perhaps two or three, should be added as well. A recommendation stemming from session 1 was to ask questions concerning difficulty for all tasks as they would provide a better read on the participant's thoughts. For session 2, this question was added to each task.

For subsequent studies, tasks that involve a greater variety of sections of the website should be tested. The tasks for this study involved pages that were closely clustered which may have accounted for the ease of completion.

Wording of tasks should be a different as possible from the actual website as possible. While I wrote the tasks, I tried to keep this in mind; but in retrospect, I think many of the tasks were worded too closely to the website.

The discussion and diagram icons along the bottom were perceived as too much information and the correspondence between icon and topic is not clear potentially causing confusion. I did not make recommendations to modify this design feature since none of the interview tasks involved this functionality. I think more study is required with the current design.

As mentioned previously, the tabs require more study; particularly with respect to their location on the screen.