MEDSCI736 - FINAL REFLECTION

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**Look back at your journey on this course. Has your perspective about what ‘good practice’ in digital research looks like changed? If so, how; if not, why not?**

It certainly has! At the start, I found it difficult to relate this course to the field of medical science as the content and layout of the course was so different to other medsci courses that I have taken.

However, as the course progressed, I started to see to big picture. That is, in today’s world, the use of computers is becoming more and more involved in all academic fields including medical science. As a growing scientist, I feel absolutely privileged to have taken this course as it allowed me to understand and actually practice digital researching, which I think is a must have skill for scientists. I have now gained a better understanding of the importance of sharing data, producing a reproducible work as well as providing the sufficient details for others to reproduce my work. I think it would be a big leap forward for science if more scientists adopted this view.

The discussion-based, and collaborative nature of the course was so helpful! And it broke the typical teacher-lecture kind of environment. Instead, the course environment felt more like a team where each member was welcomed and each difficulty was addressed right on the spot. The weekly stand ups, also made me feel part of a team in an actual work environment, which is great as it gave me more of a feel of what working environment might look like. The stand ups also made me know where I stood in terms of progress with the rest of the team and who might I get help from. Overall, this course made me appreciate how incredibly useful it is to integrate digital researching in science.

**The course encourages collaboration through peer-learning. Have your attitude towards peer-learning changed? If so, how; if not, why not?**

I found the peer-reviewing to be so helpful! I have always been a big fan of group study as it allows quick and efficient learning experience. I might be good at A while another person might be good at B, C etc.. Together we can achieve ABC quickly and efficiently. And we might have time to discuss D!

To me Peer-reviewing felt more like group study and indeed useful. I hope peer-reviewing would be more integrated in other medsci courses too.

**The course purposely has flexible deadlines. How have you found having to ‘self-manage’ your commitments and responsibilities?**

In my opinion, flexible deadlines was a good idea. It gave me a realistic feel of the amount of work am I able to produce in a given timeline. I think flexible deadlines re-enforced the meaning of working agile. In the real world, there are always things (eg. additions or changes of owner/consumer requirements) that might require shifts of deadlines. To me, the flexible deadlines didn’t stop my learning process. If I wasn’t able to meet a deadline, then I have learned that X is the reason and to allow more time for it next time.

**What is/are the main learning(s) that you will carry with you after the course ends?**

I think I'll implement the organization/working skills that I have learned in this course. Being agile is something I’d indeed practice after this course. I think I will definitely incorporate the use of Team Charter if I was to work in a team to get a basic view of vision/mission and working behavior. I would also make use of scrum boards to plan out a project in the future.

At a broader level, I think sharing a reproducible work would be my main goal if I ever get to the publishing stage. Having my views changed towards becoming a fan of open access and sharing of data is by far the best thing I have learned from this course. Thank you guys.