

## Interview script

### “Are You on Facebook?”

First of all, thank you for agreeing to meet with me in order to take part in this study! Just to remind you, this study deals with the social networking site Facebook, and the role that it currently plays in healthcare professions education.

We have asked to meet with you in order to conduct an in-person interview, so that we can better understand your experiences as a user of Facebook, as well as your beliefs and attitudes surrounding its use in relation to the healthcare professions. We hope to learn about any factors that may have led you to begin, discontinue or refuse ever to use Facebook as a student or medical professional, and also understand any benefits or drawbacks that you might believe exist for those using this popular social networking site.

I also want to make you aware that this interview will be recorded and transcribed so that we are as accurate as possible in our data collection; however, your anonymity will be protected and your identity will in no way be associated with any of the answers that you provide.

Before we begin, please take your time to read the following information sheet and sign the consent form. By consenting to participate in this study you are allowing us to record and transcribe this interview as well as to analyze and, in the future, both publish and present the data we gather today.

Thank you.

Alright, let's begin:

- 1) Do you currently or have you ever had a personal Facebook account?
- 2) How often do you log on to Facebook? (Number of times per day, week, month, etc)
- 3) What would you say is the main purpose of your Facebook use (personal relationships, work relationships, staying in contact with family, sharing of educational information, etc.)?
- 4) Can you tell me what sorts of people are on your friends list on Facebook?
  - Family
  - Personal friends
  - Work colleagues
  - Fellow students
  - Teachers
  - Patients
  - Online friends I have never met in person
- 5) Do you think Facebook use has provided any benefits or opportunities to you as a student or professional other than personal/social communication?

Can you elaborate on that? (ask, if you feel it's necessary)

- 6) What about any motivating factors to use Facebook for educational purposes?

(Suggestions to use as prompts, possible examples: Inadequate classroom instruction, structure of teaching and assessment (piecing together individual work for a common exam), learning in different educational settings, tutorial group learning, etc.)

7) As a student/teacher, have you ever engaged with one of your teachers/students on Facebook?

8) As a student/teacher, have you ever engaged with other students or colleagues *at another university* through social networking sites? What was the nature or purpose of this communication?

9) As a student engaged in some kind of educational group on Facebook, have you or your fellow members ever invited or sought to involve any of your instructors? Why or why not?

10) As an instructor or preceptor in the medical field, have you ever sought to create a space for sharing information using social networking tools? Why or why not? Have students ever approached you about this matter or invited you to join them in some way on these sites?

11) What do you believe are some dangers that exist for professional members of the community using these social media websites?

12) Do you think that there are many people that agree with your opinions on Facebook use within the medical community or the student body? What about those who might oppose your views? Are there any particular demographics you think would support/oppose you?

13) In regards to any dangers or negative aspects you may have mentioned for Facebook use by healthcare professionals, do you feel the current guidelines or recommendations to protect users is adequate? If not, what kind of changes would you recommend?

14) What types of things would you recommend to include in a set of regulations that govern the appropriate use of sites like Facebook by students and medical professionals alike?

15) Do you have any other additional comments regarding your experiences as a user of Facebook?

Thank you once again for taking part in this study. Your responses to the questions I asked today will be invaluable to our ongoing research. As mentioned before, if you have any additional questions regarding the study please contact Dr. White or Dr. Ross.

Have a great day!