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# Concise Pharmacology (“Pharma’s Pie”) Videos for Student use for Review

Dear Editor,

The subject of pharmacology introduces to health sciences students the basic mechanisms of drug actions as well as the clinical use of medicines. The broad content of a typical pharmacology course, however, often is overwhelming for the average student.<sup>[1]</sup> Curricular restructuring has resulted in revised lists of topics and depth of information delivered via different modes to students.<sup>[2]</sup> Types of e-learning tools being used may include illustrations, video lectures, interactive PowerPoint presentations, and animated videos – all with varying success.<sup>[3]</sup> In this communication, I will describe a series of concise, 1–2-min videos known as “Pharma’s Pie” that were created and intended for students to quickly review major drug examples in each therapeutic drug class. It is envisioned that these short videos will benefit students in their consolidation of lecture contents and in their preparation for assessments.

Any pharmacology teacher can readily modify the composition of the Pharma’s Pie video, depending on the lecture topic, using Microsoft PowerPoint® (from Microsoft Corporation) and FeyRecorder (from FeyTools LLC). A video on antidiyslipidemic drugs has been produced, where each drug is introduced as a slice of Pharma’s Pie (Video 1). The entirety of the step-by-step introduction of the five antidiyslipidemic drugs is shown in Figure 1. Graphics were kept simple to minimize

visual distraction from the contents and from presenting extraneous cognitive load to student learners.<sup>[4]</sup> However, the simultaneous use of visual and auditory senses has been demonstrated to optimize the working memory of the learner.<sup>[4]</sup> Therefore, a built-in narrative voice using FeyRecorder was introduced to the video – both the narration and subtitles were embedded into the PowerPoint file where the video was made. Upon completion, the PowerPoint file was saved as an MP4 video file for dissemination on a learning management system.

Early observational data suggest that viewership of the antidiyslipidemic video resulted in a positive correlation with student retention of lecture contents and assessment of student performance. There is potential to introduce the series of Pharma’s Pie videos with coverage of other pharmacology topics for student usage.

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## Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

**Willmann Liang**

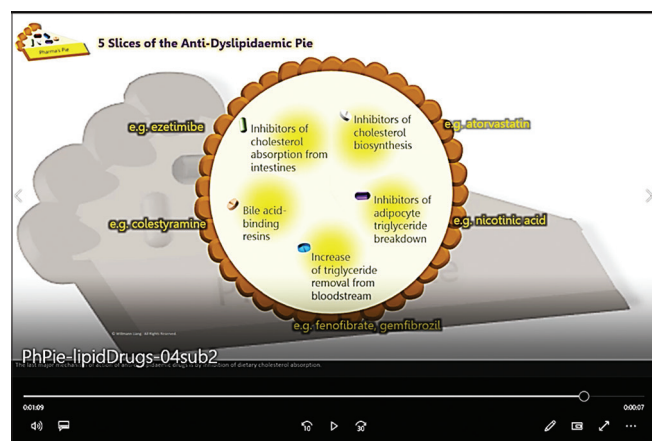
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**Figure 1:** Still-frame image showing five antidiyslipidemic drugs in the Pharma’s Pie video to aid student learning

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