



The Power of Sub-Portals: How the Society of Interventional Radiology Expanded their Education Programs with CourseStage Health LMS

ABOUT SIR

The Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR) represents more than 8,000 practicing interventional radiology physicians as well as others practicing in the field, including trainees, medical students, scientists, and clinical associates such as physician assistants and nurse practitioners. SIR produces educational products and resources that help members further their knowledge and competency and expand their practices.

According to the SIR website, "Interventional radiologists pioneered minimally invasive treatment, which reaches the source of a medical problem through blood vessels or directly through a tiny incision in the skin to deliver a precise, targeted treatment. Interventional radiology treatments performed by board-certified experts can deliver solutions with less risk, less pain, and less recovery time than traditional surgery.

These treatments are delivered in collaboration with the patients' care team. The specialty was founded in the early 1960s. Today, interventional radiology is synonymous with modern medicine."

Web Courseworks is a full-service learning technologies company offering a suite of learning management systems, virtual event solutions, and professional services. CourseStage LMS is Web Courseworks' award-winning learning management system purpose-built for associations.

OVERVIEW

A long-time client using CourseStage Health LMS, SIR has been offering a wide range of education programs in the SIR Learning Center. Three years ago, the Society developed a strategic plan to produce a curriculum designed for interventional radiology residents. From that, **Residency Essentials** was born – a two-year online program that would provide a significant share of online training materials. Universities or health organizations such as hospitals could adopt the curriculum to integrate into their own instructional programs. Rather than develop and deliver all the instruction themselves, program directors could have their students watch videos and do readings to learn the concepts, in a "flipped" classroom model. The model would free up faculty to focus their real-time interactions with students on the clinical practice aspects of learning.

Much of the raw materials for the program already existed in the SIR Learning Center. Member volunteers took on the job of wading through the recordings and creating the residency learning modules.

THE CHALLENGE

Once the learning content was ready, a big challenge was setting up the program to enable organizations adopting the curriculum to make it available to their individual students. Since July 1, 2020, almost a hundred training programs have begun delivering Residency Essentials via the SIR Learning Center.

SIR wanted to enable each organization to brand the self-study curriculum as its own so that when a student participated in the online program, they would see their institution-specific logo and get a personalized welcome message. As Elizabeth Nicholson, SIR Senior Manager of Online Education, explains, "We still wanted it to be part of our Learning Management System, the SIR Learning Center, but with their unique look."

Another challenge was, if SIR staff had to manage the many institutions with access to the course, there could be a significant amount of administrative work. SIR wanted to minimize its administrative effort as much as possible.

THE SOLUTION

SIR leveraged their CourseStage Health LMS and their Personify AMS to create this unique program. Web Courseworks is a Personify partner and the two systems are tightly integrated, making for a seamless sign-on experience as users move between the association website and the LMS.

SIR used the multi-tenancy feature (sub-portals) in CourseStage LMS to create the Residency Essentials program. Within that program are three different sections, with a current total of 78 modules, which is continually evolving and expanding. Each of the hundred training programs offering the Residency Essentials program has their own unique, branded portal in SIR's LMS.

THE BENEFITS



Tight Integration. Behind the scenes, the LMS is taking care of a whole bunch of operations. A big one is that each institution is granted its own sub-portal, which is actually what the student sees when they log into the LMS through the university or health center's unique portal.

Because of the integration between CourseStage Health LMS and Personify AMS, residents can log in using their SIR credentials to get access to their lessons. A benefit of that setup is that it allows learners to see not just Residency Essentials, but all the other education they've acquired through SIR as well.

When updates are made to modules, because they're centrally maintain within CourseStage Health LMS, the new content is instantly available in the lessons everybody is taking.



Easy Setup. According to SIR Senior Manager of Online Education, Elizabeth Nicholson, "Setup of a new sub-portal takes about two hours. It's really easy." The Sub-Portal interface allows a new portal to be created with 3 clicks, just give it a name, upload the organization's logo, and click save. From there you have a portal and can quickly add courses and users via bulk upload.



Simple Sub-Portal Management. Managing the high number of sub-portals (96 at last count) is a simple matter. For example, if an institutional customer adds additional licenses, Elizabeth can pull up her dashboard, type in some portion of the institution's name and have the results show up, alphabetized in front of her. "The ease of managing the portal is brilliant," she says.

THE RESULTS

✓ Fully Customizable Learning Portals

Each institution is able to incorporate branding elements in their own sub-portal, like their logos and color schemes. This gives their learners a sense of ownership and helps the Residency Program content mesh with the rest of the institution's online education curriculum.

✓ Central Control with Delegated Access

By granting institutions a sub-portal, the Society of Interventional Radiology has full control in terms of what content they want to share with any given group. Whether it's institutions and health centers or some other structure where they want to limit access to their content to a select set of learners, CourseStage Health LMS makes it possible.

✓ Enhanced Learning Experience

Because each sub-portal functions as its own site, a hospital who signs up online and purchases Residency Essentials through the SIR store for example, can have their own settings like language and time zone in their own portal. They do not need to concern themselves with site upkeep, upgrades, developing content, etc. as that falls under the purview of SIR. This improves the overall learning experience because they can custom tailor the platform based on their educational training objectives and learner preferences.

✓ Efficient Reporting for each Institution

Elizabeth's team has developed custom reports that CourseStage Health LMS generates for individual administrators, to help them stay on top of enrollment trends and course statistics.

"The system automatically knows that this is a sub-portal report and to only pull the people in that sub-portal. And that's the same with the training transcripts," she says. "I think that's really important. It was one of the key reasons to go with portals in CourseStage, because it can create a little silo for each institution."

✓ Reduced Data Safety Risks

Learner data within the Learning Center is safe and sound, thanks to the secure integration between CourseStage Health LMS and the Society's primary system of record, Personify AMS.

✓ Increased Non-Dues Revenue

The sub-portal capability of CourseStage Health LMS allows SIR to offer a full-feature learning program to chapters, state organizations, and partners. They can generate new non-dues revenue by licensing sub-portals to affiliated groups. They can also sell subscriptions at tiered pricing based on the organization's size.

CourseStage Health LMS is a feature-rich LMS designed with the functionality to meet the unique accreditation requirements of the healthcare and medical industries.

Take your learning business to the next level by switching to a robust, scalable, and mobile-responsive platform designed with your members in mind. **Request a demo today!**