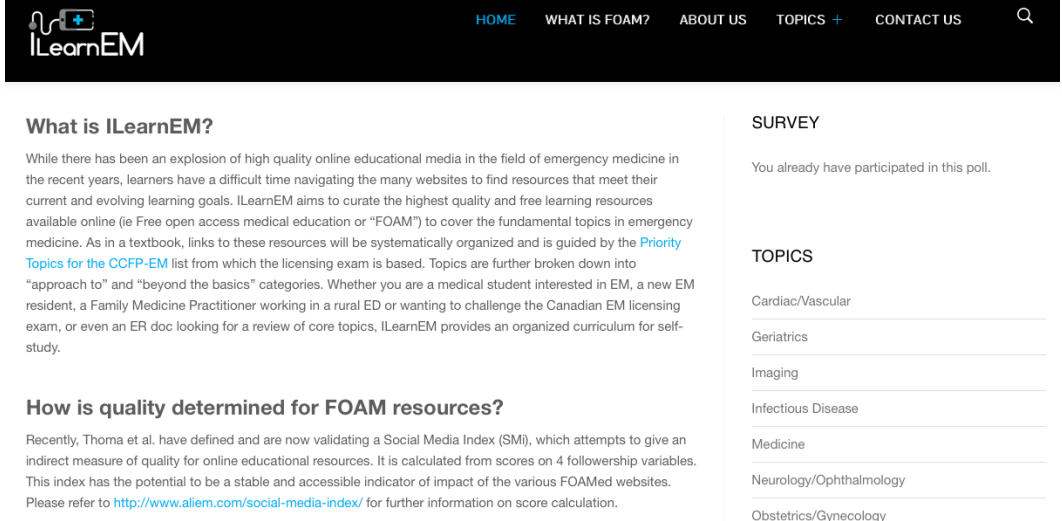


## CAEP Feature Innovation Case Report

<b>Name of innovation</b>	<a href="http://www.ILearnEM.com">www.ILearnEM.com</a>
<b>Lead Innovator</b>	Andrea Lo
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<b>Project website</b>	<a href="http://www.ilearnem.com">www.ilearnem.com</a> A website to aggregate FOAM for CCFP-EM learners
<b>Description of the Innovation</b>	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>While there has been an explosion of high quality online educational media in the field of emergency medicine in the recent years, there is a definite lack of organization of this Free Open Access Meducation (FOAM) content for user-specific learning goals. Having been an avid EM FOAM user through medical school, family medicine residency, and now my emergency medicine fellowship, I found myself navigating through many websites in order to find resources that met my current and evolving needs. This disorganization is a significant barrier to entering the FOAM world as well as finding the wealth of resources that are available. While seasoned FOAM users and practicing physicians may be content with a surprise topic from their favourite FOAM producer each month, the majority of learners, and especially users new to FOAM, will often have a specific learning objective in mind and not know where to find an appropriate resource. In addition, they may find several resources, but lack the ability to gauge the quality of the resource.</p> <p><b>Screen Capture</b></p>  <p>The screenshot shows the ILearnEM website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for HOME, WHAT IS FOAM?, ABOUT US, TOPICS +, and CONTACT US, along with a search icon. Below the navigation bar, the main content area is divided into two columns. The left column features a section titled 'What is ILearnEM?' with a paragraph explaining the website's purpose: to curate high-quality FOAM resources for emergency medicine learners. Below this is another section titled 'How is quality determined for FOAM resources?' which discusses the Social Media Index (SMI) and provides a link for more information. The right column contains a 'SURVEY' section with a message indicating that the user has already participated in a poll, and a 'TOPICS' section with a list of medical specialties: Cardiac/Vascular, Geriatrics, Imaging, Infectious Disease, Medicine, Neurology/Ophthalmology, and Obstetrics/Gynecology.</p>

## **Objective**

ILearnEM aims to curate the highest quality and free learning resources available online (ie Free open access medical education or “FOAM”) to cover the fundamental topics in emergency medicine. Links to these resources will be systematically organized, similar to core emergency medicine textbooks such as Tintinalli’s Emergency Medicine Manual, from which licensing exams are based. Topics are further broken down into “approach to” and “beyond the basics” categories.

## **Target Audience**

ILearnEM provides an organized curriculum in emergency medicine for self-study and targets learners from across a wide spectrum - from a medical student interested in EM, a new EM resident, a Family Medicine Practitioner working in a rural ED or wanting to challenge the Canadian EM licensing exam, or even a practising EM doc looking for a review of core topics.

## **Methodology**

Recently, Thoma et al. have defined and are now validating a Social Media Index (SMi), which attempts to give an indirect measure of quality for online educational resources<sup>1</sup>. It is calculated from scores on 4 followership variables. This index has the potential to be a stable and accessible indicator of impact of the various FOAM websites. Please refer to <http://www.aliem.com/social-media-index/> for further information on score calculation.

The links included on the ILearnEM site are curated by Andrea Lo (CCFP-EM resident) and Hans Rosenberg (Emergency Physician at The Ottawa Hospitals) and were drawn from the top 50 scoring websites on the SMi at the time. As there is not yet any evidence-based criteria for differentiating between high and low quality FOAM content, specific blog posts or podcasts were reviewed and chosen based on gestalt and guided by The Quality Checklists for Health Professions Blogs and Podcasts which can be found here: <https://thewinner.com/papers/2641-the-quality-checklists-for-medical-educatio-blogs-and-podcasts>

These checklists were compiled using a modified Delphi consensus by an international cohort of FOAM experts and health professional educators for quality indicators for blogs and podcasts used in medical education.<sup>2</sup>

## **Future Directions**

This website was released in March 2016, and has been sent to the medical school classes at University of Ottawa, the Emergency Medicine residents at The Ottawa Hospital, and published on social media on platforms such as Facebook and Twitter. It will be sent to the program directors for the CCFP-EM programs across Canada.

	<p>We are currently tracking website traffic as well as gauging the audience type by using a simple poll on the homepage. Because of its recent release, this data is not yet ready for analysis.</p> <p>Going forward, we hope to expand our team and solidify a sustainable methodology in order to maintain and regularly update the site with new FOAM content at least monthly.</p>
<b>Author</b>	Andrea Lo

## References

1. Thoma, Brent; Sanders, Jason L.; Lin, Michelle; Paterson, Quinten S.; Steeg, Jordon; & Chan, Teresa M.(2015). The Social Media Index: Measuring the Impact of Emergency Medicine and Critical Care Websites. *Western Journal of Emergency Medicine*, 16(2). doi: 10.5811/westjem.2015.1.24860. uciem\_westjem\_24860. Retrieved from: <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/7t7777m7>
2. Isabelle N Colmers, Quinten S Paterson, Michelle Lin, Brent Thoma, Teresa M Chan, The Quality Checklists for Health Professions Blogs and Podcasts, *The Winnower*3:e144720.08769 (2015). DOI:10.15200/winn.144720.08769