



A nonprofit educational organization

Fact Sheet

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What is the Student Doctor Network?

The Student Doctor Network (SDN) is an organized community of health professionals and students from across the United States and around the world. Founded in 1999, SDN operates a website www.studentdoctor.net moderated by volunteer health professionals who are dedicated to providing students, residents and practitioners with free and unbiased information. SDN is published by the Coastal Research Group, a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt educational organization founded in 1983.

SDN maintains active online forums and a social network to answer questions on topics from choosing schools and residency programs to ultimately solving complex and pressing issues facing practicing health professionals. Think of it as a combination of Google®, Wikipedia® and LinkedIn®, professionally organized and moderated, with a social networking component built in. It's particularly suited for both pre-health students and practicing professionals looking for answers to their questions.

Founded: 1999

Board of Directors: 7

Volunteers/Moderators: 107

Funding: Sponsorships, donations, book sales, Google AdSense

Status: Non-profit 501(c)(3)

Website: www.studentdoctor.net

SDN point of view as an educational/social media website:

SDN strives to be a professional, accurate and educational resource for health professionals and students. Although the collegial nature of its forums lends itself well as a natural social network such as Facebook®, it is more similar to Wikipedia in terms of content and LinkedIn as a professional-level social media site. Members find formal moderation through a network of dedicated, volunteer professionals and informal moderation through the existing user community to be an effective tool in eliminating misinformation and inaccuracies.

SDN believes that an open forum, allowing the free exchange of ideas and opinions is the best method of preserving a community dedicated to professional development and support of the healthcare student and practitioner.