

RCOphthGPT: a custom-trained AI companion for the new RCOphth 2024 curriculum and exams, supporting trainees and trainers with progression from Levels 1 to 4

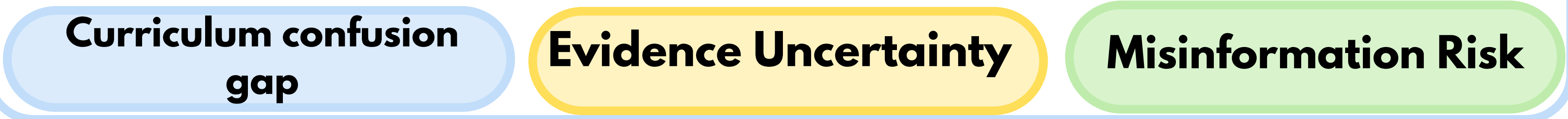
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Introduction

The RCOphth 2024 curriculum strengthens capability-based training, but early implementation has created uncertainty about what evidence is required and what must be achieved to progress. The issues that arise include:

- Difficulty identifying evidence needed for WBAs and progression decisions
- Challenges mapping clinical work to progressuon levels 1-4
- Supervisors may be unfamiliar with the updated framework
- Exam revision can be poorly aligned with offoicial syllabus and exmainer reports
- Generic AI tools may provide inaccurate or non-official guidance

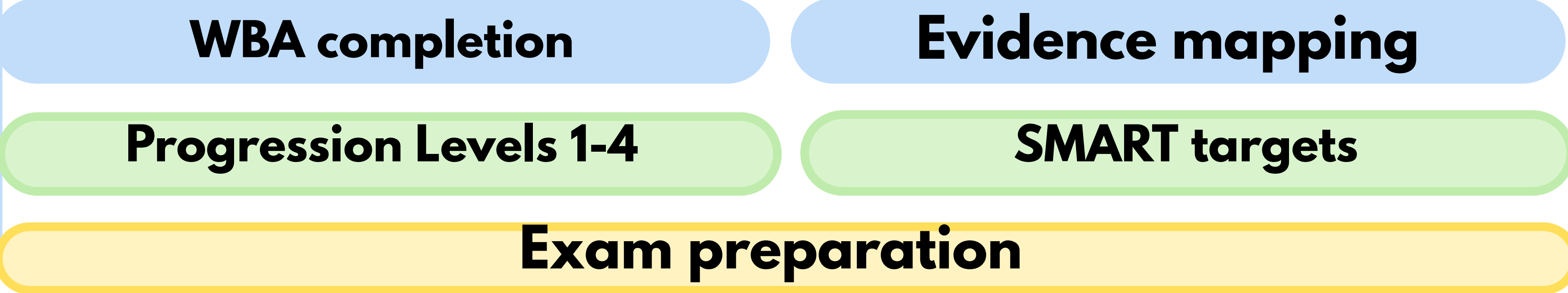


Aim

To develop a custom made RCOphthGPT

We aimed to develop a custom-trained AI tool constrained to official Royal College curriculum and exmainition documents only

Designed to support:



Methods

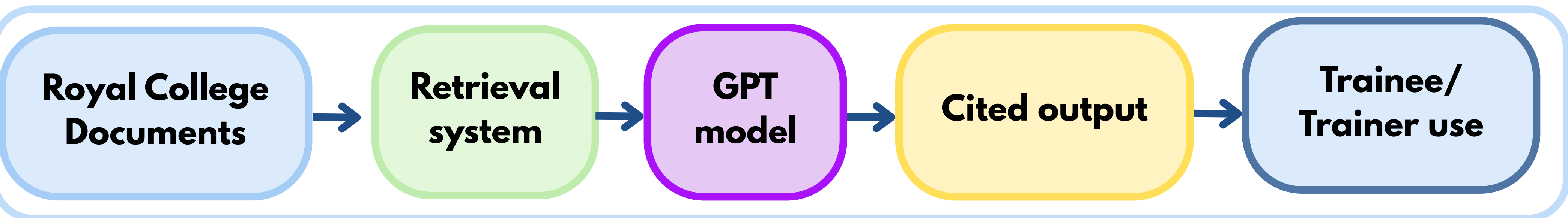
Closed corpus of official Royal College documents downloaded from the college website, including:

- RCOphth 2024 curriculum PDFs
- Assessment + WBA guidance
- Exam syllabus
- Examiner reports
- Recommended reading

Custom built and trained using GPT-5.1 Thinking with retrieval-augmented generation

Responses grounded only in source documents with mandatory citations

System Architecture



System Features

WBA support	Clinical Rating Scale, CBD, DOPS (incl. Biometry), GSAT, OSATS, MSF
EPA progression	Structures Level 1 to 4 discussions and checkpoint preparation
SMART targets	Generates specific targets linked to WBAs, EPAs, and checkpoints
Exam Buddy mode	Maps syllabus content to curriculum domains and examiner-report themes

Results

Informal qualitative testing conducted among junior trainees and colleagues showed:

Clarity	Improved understanding of WBA evidence requirements
Structure	Documentaion and supervision preparation felt more consistent
Progression	Greater confidence mapping work to Levels 1-4
Trust	Citation-based answers and refusal to speculate were valued

Conclusion

- RCOphthGPT provides reliable, curriculum-locked guidance
- Improves clarity and consistencve in training documentation
- Supports structured progression Level 1 to 4
- Enhances alignment between curriculum, WBAs and exams
- Safe design through citation and abstention
- A formal pilot study has been planned

Key Takeaways

