Reviewer's report

**Title:** Distance Learning to Build International Health Research Capacity: A Randomized Study of Online versus On-site Training

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 25 February 2011

**Reviewer:** Vernon Curran

**Reviewer's report:**

**Minor Essential Revisions**
I found this manuscript to be well written. The Methods are clearly discussed, however the authors should specify the study design, it seems to me to have been pre-post test study design. The authors provide a good description of the courses. More detail is needed on the tests which were used, specifically the # and type of items used on the tests. Results are clearly described.

**Major Compulsory Revisions**
The main weakness in this manuscript is the superficial coverage of pertinent literature in the Introduction. The review of literature related to e-learning and CME/CPD needs to be enhanced considerably. The authors do cite 1 meta-analysis study of e-CME, however a more expansive review of the literature must be added. The integration of the findings from this study with the literature and knowledge in this field must also be expanded in the Discussion section. This is a well designed study, however I was left wondering what is the importance and significance of the study findings with respect to what we already know?

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
'I declare that I have no competing interests'