Reviewer's report

Title: Assessment of clinical competencies using clinical images and videos

Version: 3 Date: 5 February 2013

Reviewer: Ray Peterson

Reviewer's report:

The authors have developed an interesting and novel approach in assessing through the CIVA, which adds to the range of options of assessing medical students. The study is clear in intent and the authors have developed a logical plan to address their aim for the study. The results are clear and relate to the purpose. They have provided evidence to address the validity and reliability of the method they have used.

I have some specific comments that should be considered:

Minor Essential Revisions

Abstract - Results section. The third sentence starts with " The majority of students..." This is somewhat vague, and so quantification would be useful.

Page 4 - Second paragraph beginning " In assessing students'.....

It needs to be clear that you are now talking about the Sharjah Medical Program and not generally.

Page 6 Questionnaire first line has (147). It could be useful to indicate the sample size for both batches (n=52 and n=95).

Discussion: There was no discussion on the student responses to the questionnaire.

Discretionary Revisions

Page 7: The questionnaire results could be better presented in a Table, especially if there were more items that were not included in the results. This would provide a better picture of student perceptions.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

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