Reviewer’s report

Title: Active learning by physical models as teaching tools in medical physiology

Version: 1

Date: 4 June 2014

Reviewer: Suzan Elsayed

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Major Compulsory Revision:

My suggestions are offered from a perspective of someone who has long experience teaching physiology to wide variety of students in Egypt and USA. The paper represents a good effort to not only engage students in learning-teaching process but also to enhance their self directed learning. My suggestions are as follow:

1) I think it will be better if the title is restated to reflect the involvement of the students in constructing the models.

2) In the method section the authors should provide:
   a- The exact method that was used to extract the themes that have been presented in table 1
   b- Number of persons who involved in the data analysis. In case of more than one person have been involved, I would like to know if all did agree with the themes in table 1 or not? How were disagreement negotiated? In case of only one person analyzed the data, this has to be considered as one of limitations for the study.

3) In the results and discussion section:
   a- Since most of the medical schools consider shifting their curriculum from traditional to integrated curriculum, I wonder where this model application will fit, particularly in the classroom where the time of one session is limited to 50 min or in the lab sessions. The authors should consider whether these models would be more effective for teaching physiology to premedical students or non-major undergraduate students, given the time constraints of the medical school curriculum.
   b- The authors should provide the number of hours that it took for students to complete the entire activity. This will be critical for readers who want to evaluate whether such an activity is feasible for their own curricula.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests