Reviewer's report

Title: Student evaluation of an OSCE in Paediatrics at the University of the West Indies, Jamaica

Version: Date: 19 May 2004

Reviewer: Jesse Crosson

Reviewer's report:

General

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1. The background section needs to clearly state the reason that this study is needed. What does this examination of student attitudes towards the OSCE add to the medical education literature?
2. In the methods section it is not clear whether the non-respondents mentioned are the same as those who are non-respondents to the survey. If the purpose of the article is to describe results of the survey, the authors should more fully describe the survey.
3. The authors assert that the survey responses attest to the validity and reliability of the OSCE itself. This is not an appropriate method for assessing test reliability.
4. The discussion section states that students reviewed their profile of performance on the OSCE and used this to identify areas of weakness and strength in terms of clinical skills. This profile is not described in the article and it is not clear how this point relates to the survey results.
5. The discussion section states that the OSCE has motivated changes in student learning, faculty teaching and curriculum but these changes are not described in sufficient detail in the article to support this assertion.

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

None