Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 12 July 2004

Reviewer: Jesse Crosson

Reviewer's report:

General

Much improved from previous version. I still have a number of questions about the study and the paper.

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

1. In the results, the claim that students "generally found the OSCE to be intimidating and more stressful than other assessment formats" does not appear to be supported by the responses documented in the Tables since 48% found the exam intimidating and 35% found it more stressful.

2. Responses to the question about bias due to "gender, personality or ethnicity" are not interpretable since the question asks about three separate potential sources of bias using only one question.

3. The ranking of exam formats in terms of fairness and difficulty is unclearly presented. The questions used to elicit these opinions would help me to assess the accuracy of the authors' claims.

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

1. In paragraph 2 of the background: I am not sure what is meant by the term "viva".

2. In the results section: It is not clear to me what is meant by "allowed for compensation in deficient areas."

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: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
None.