Reviewer's report

Title: Prof-in-a-Box: using internet video-conferencing to assist students in the gross anatomy lab.

Version: 1 Date: 30 October 2006

Reviewer: Richard Drake

Reviewer's report:

General
Every once in a while it is important to publish 'how to' articles and this is one of those situations. "Prof-in-a-Box: using internet-videoconferencing to assist students in the gross anatomy lab" provides a useful and detailed description of how to set-up a system using distance-learning technologies that allows an anatomist in one location to interact with students in a gross anatomy laboratory at a different location. The goals of this project were to demonstrate that the equipment and software provide sufficient resolution allowing remote identification of anatomical structures and that the students find this a useful learning tool. These goals seem to have been achieved. The detailed description of the technology provides an individual interested in establishing this type of system all of the necessary information to get started. Furthermore, the results from an optional evaluation filled out by students who took advantage of the system felt it was useful. Thus, this initial report does indicate that instruction in an anatomy dissection laboratory can be provided by faculty members that are not physically present and this activity can provide the students with a meaningful learning experience.

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

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
Table 1 is not needed. A summary of the responses to the optional evaluation are presented in the Results section of the manuscript and Table 1 provides no additional useful information.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.