Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Using Television Shows to Teach Communication Skills in Internal Medicine Residency

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 9 October 2008

**Reviewer:** Pratima Gupta

**Reviewer’s report:**

**General**
1. The idea presented in the study is very interesting. Overall the paper is very well written. The data have been presented concisely and in an easily understandable manner.
2. The title is accurate and the abstract reflects the study results.

**Methods**
3. The authors describe data collection using standardised questions. It may be useful to have the questionnaires used in the appendix (Discretionary)
4. The study design clearly lacks a control group. It may have been useful to test the candidates after the didactic presentation, which may have provided some control.

**Results**
5. On page 8, paragraph 2, the last sentence is incorrect because in the table the median for 'providing a closure' is 3 not 3.5 (3.5 would have made the result nonsignificant) (minor correction)
6. Correct statistical methods have been used.

**Discussion**
7. Generally it is well written and limitations of the study are acknowledged. However, authors could have included a discussion comparing the role of TV show excerpts vs role play techniques for teaching communication skills. (Discretionary)

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.