Reviewer's report

**Title:** Interactive film scenes for tutor training in problem-based learning (PBL): dealing with difficult situations

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 14 June 2010

**Reviewer:** David Jonassen

**Reviewer's report:**

I was not aware of the role of the Technical Advances section to the journal. My interpretation of the comments made by the authors is that papers published in this section are not research articles. If that assumption is correct, then I accept the paper for publication.

As a research article, there are too many concerns, not the least of which is the reliance on a single form of perceptual assessments. The authors pretested and post-tested with a perceptual instrument, which showed changes in the perceived efficacy. I could not accept that as the sole data source for a research article.

It might still be useful to explain how the literature review identified the 14 concerns of PBL tutors. There is a sort of magic implied by the paper as written. “We reviewed the literature, and this is what we found.”

The use of case studies to train tutors is certainly an acceptable strategy. The pro and con associated with each case is good, although there are many other perspectives that could have been included.

Finally, I still disagree that PBL is a linear process, although I will accept that as a cultural interpretation of PBL.

So, in conclusion, the paper provides a useful description of a tutor training method that should help medical tutors prepare for a very difficult role.

**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.