Reviewer's report

Title: Integrated Problem-Based Learning in the Neuroscience Curriculum - The SUNY Downstate Experience

Version: 1 Date: 23 March 2006

Reviewer: Mark Albanese

Reviewer's report:

General
Nicely written and an interesting read.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
1. The authors need to qualify their conclusions because this apparently was the first year of the curriculum. In a few years after they have had a chance to work through the transition, the various problems could resolve themselves.
2. There needs to be a methods section that clearly states the class relationship to when the curriculum change was made, response rate to the questionnaire, how the questionnaire was distributed, when in the year the questionnaire was distributed and any motivational conditions applied for students to respond (any reward for returning a questionnaire, how many times were reminders sent, etc)
3. In the meeting with the "elected student body (p8)", how many students were there, how many course directors were there, how was the information collected and summarized?
4. A better description of the exam results is needed (cursory one sentence treatment at end of first para. on p12). A table would be very helpful.

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 importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests