Author's response to reviews

Title: Gender plays no role in student ability to perform on computer-based examinations

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Dear Sir or Madam:

I wish to submit the attached paper for publication with BioMed Central. I believe it is a rather important paper that deals with the issue of student assessment as it changes from traditional paper-and-pencil format to a computer-based format. It looks carefully at student performance and specifically an analysis of gender performance in the traditional and on-line format. Increasingly, testing is moving to the on-line format and the proper design of these instruments is essential.

Interestingly, there is little discussion in the literature regarding medical students who are tested in a computerized format. Clearly, this is an important issue as the method for testing medical students, residents and practicing physicians is rapidly moving to the computerized format. Assessment is incredibly important in ensuring that physicians are properly skilled to care for the medical concerns of patients.

Therefore, I ask you to publish this paper to stimulate the proper considerations when transferring assessment tools to the on-line format.

Very truly yours,

Susan M. Kies, Ed.D.