

## IN THIS ISSUE

We review the new Android Application, programmed to complement the Online OSCE system for practical assessment examinations following its recent successful implementation at an exam centre in London. We also look at the new Question/Item Bank option for OSCE/Practical Assessment examinations, which has been designed to automatically generate station forms for paper only, combined online/paper systems and online or Android Application only based options. We also cover the latest news from our Bureau/Outsourcing department and make a free, no obligation trial offer on our new Android Application system for tablet computers to all medical, dental, pharmaceutical, veterinary & other schools running practical

### So Quiet, So Calm, So Easy

These were the comments made by examiners and visiting examination managers from two well known medical schools. In both cases all involved were surprised at the air of calmness and efficiency that was discernable at last months National Examining Board for Dental Nurses OSCE examination held in London using Trax UK's new Android application. All examiners reported that they were comfortable and happy using and handling the tablet computers and they all reported that it gave them more time to do the job of examining the candidates without any problems of selecting the correct candidate's paper and thus no rustling of papers, which meant no noise.

This OSCE examination was carried out using a purely electronic solution, without a marker completing a manual mark sheet at each station as a back up, although a few generic paper based station forms were placed on each station prior to the exam (as a last resort option). Briefing of examiners and supply of log in details took place prior to the start of the first circuit where it was found that there was little prior knowledge of using the system. There were a small amount of initial queries and assistance given at the start of the first circuit, but thereafter all examiners were comfortable and happy with handling and using the tablets. The only downside, from the examiners perspective, was that for the second day of OSCE's, they were going back to the paper/pencil option, which they were unhappy with, as the Android App experience had proved so easy.

Experience of now running three OSCE's using both Online and an Android Application has shown that spare, fully charged tablet computers should be made available, we suggest a minimum of two (preferably three), so as to avoid any problems of a tablet suddenly going down. From an OSCE administrator's point of view and paramount in this type of application is not only the storing of results securely, but also the need to ensure that there is adequate data back-up. The new system meets these requirements with its unique three way back up system whereby, the data is stored on the device's internal memory as well as a removable SSD memory card, which is used as a secondary backup medium and, if internet access is available, the data can be uploaded at the end of the circuit to a web server. In cases where no internet is available, the SSD card can be removed and the data copied onto the OSCE administrator's computer to analyse the results through our Print & Scan system.

This means that there is now a solution for users who wish to undertake OSCE type examinations on tablet devices, but who do not have internet access, with the added advantage that there is also a fourth and last resort back-up medium available in the shape of paper based forms, which have been generated from the same Print & Scan system as the Online solutions using our copyrighted 'design once use on any platform' technology. For further details and information please contact either Erin Bannister or Colin Woolhouse at [sales@traxuk.com](mailto:sales@traxuk.com) or call on +44 (0)1227 793200.

### TRIAL OFFER

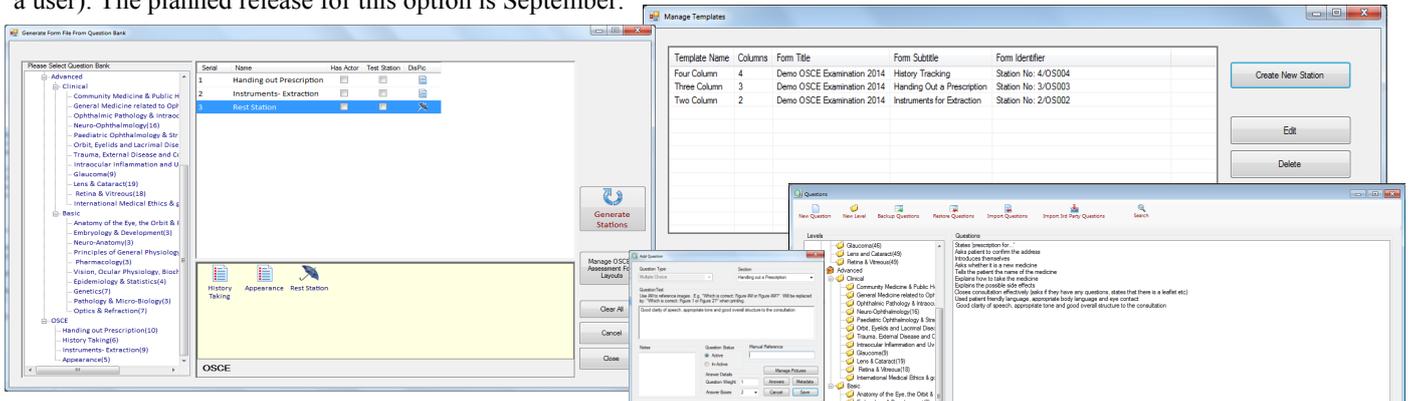
Would your school like to try the new Android Application OSCE system? We are so confident about the system that we are willing to let you trial the new software on our own tablet computers at no cost to yourselves. We will supply you with a limited number of tablet computers, invest time in transposing some of your OSCE forms into our format, set up the tablets with the relevant candidate and examiner data plus attend on site for the trial, including giving the examiner briefing before the start of the OSCE. Results data will be supplied in either an Excel spreadsheet format for importing to other systems, or we can supply you with results after the exam, whichever is the most suitable. To take advantage of this offer simply click on the following link and complete your details - <http://www.trax-uk.co.uk/test/contact.htm>

## New OSCE Version of Question/Item Bank Available

A new variation of the Question/Item Bank designed specifically for OSCE practical assessment exams for paper, online and as part of the stand alone Android Application for OSCE's, is now available. This module allows users to design and generate OSCE Station forms from within the Question/Item Bank with the appropriate number of columns and responses for each task generated with up to 6 user defined column headings for each station.

Questions are created in a similar manner to the multi-stem option in the standard version of the system, with each station treated as the main question title and each task within a station treated as a stem. Version numbering of amendments to the original question/station are held by the system as well as an option to flag if a question/station is to be used as a pilot/test only.

There is also the ability to search for stations and questions by key words and set question selection criteria using enhanced statistical data concerning the reliability, discrimination etc. of that station or practical assessment. Following several requests, the new OSCE Question/Item Bank will also have the ability to store Learning Outcomes (this can be both from internal and external sources) as well as a feature to search on these outcomes (show stations matching one or several criteria as selected by a user). The planned release for this option is September.



Sample screen shots of the new system. The upper right screen shot shows the template settings for the number of columns required for the station. The lower right screen shows a typical layout of questions connected to one station, whilst the small box shows the creation of a single stem for inclusion within previously defined station sets. The screen above and to the left shows the 'drag & drop' list option from the lower screen (with the pastel yellow background) to the upper screen, which allows users to create a station order list as required.

When generating a station list, the software allows the user to 'drag and drop' stations into their own preferred order with the ability to change that order before generating the final station examination list as shown in the screen above and to the left whereby station objects can be moved from the lower screen (with the pastel yellow background) to the upper screen, which thus allows users to create a station order list as required. For the purposes of ensuring that a list is in the correct candidate circuit order for generating online or as paper based forms, the user may also designate whether a station is a rest, or for test purposes only (and not included in the scoring scheme), as well as being able to allocate actor stations, as part of the marking criteria. Finally, the station list created by the system is passed seamlessly from the Question Bank into the Print & Scan/MultiTest software from where each station may be printed onto paper, and/or generated online, or downloaded onto each tablet or mobile device in the correct sequence and with the appropriate candidate rotation in place.

For more information or a system demonstration please email Erin or Colin at - [sales@traxuk.com](mailto:sales@traxuk.com) or call +44 (0)1227 793200

## Bureau/Outsourcing News

The number of organisations who have opted to use our Outsourcing services has continued to increase especially as clients seek organisations that can offer not only security and stability over competitors, but also the use of new concepts that save time, resources and funds in these financially turbulent times.

Some of our recent bureau/outsourcing projects have included, what we understand to be, the largest practical assessment OSCE examination carried out in Europe and indeed the world, whereby a total of nearly 1,200 candidates covering 25 practical assessment stations, at seven different centres within the UK, produced over a period of two days, nearly 30,000 examiner assessment forms. This also included using tablet devices in one location for the electronic marking of candidates rather than the traditional paper option. We have also embarked on a large scale three year survey project with Durham University and the University of Leicester, involving school children covering Years 4, 5, and 8 (Primary and Secondary) with around 16,000 students participating. This has involved us in not only designing and arranging the printing of a four page form in a folded and perforated A3 format, but also the packaging and distribution of forms with pencils, and the collection of forms from the schools for return to us for checking against registers, separating and then processing. For further details of the services available, please contact Erin Bannister on - [erin@traxuk.com](mailto:erin@traxuk.com) or call +44 (0)1227 793200

## Last Word - Business Solutions News

Please go to our Business Solutions newsletter for all the latest news on the 'Organiser' Sage document management solution at [www.traxuk.com](http://www.traxuk.com) or contact Barry Snashall on 01227-793200