Reviewer’s report

Title: Medical Student Professionalism Narratives: A Thematic Analysis and Interdisciplinary Comparative Investigation

Version: 2 Date: 17 July 2011

Reviewer: Orit Karniel-Miller

Reviewer’s report:

Dear Editor,

I believe the paper is clear, much improved and worth publishing. I suggest a few minor corrections:

1. On p. 12 I suggest revising the sentence: “The second most utilized major theme in narrative analysis was spending time taking care of patients, patients’ education, and understanding was common.” I am unclear about the use of the term utilized here?

2. I suggest revising the sentence: “It was interesting to read narratives of similar content. One topic of student focus worth mentioning was pain management.”

To something in the lines of: Narratives within different themes focused on various contents. One content area that was prevalent in EM was pain management… (continue with your sentence that some were…. )

This needs to be revised because I, as a reader, was confused due to the move go back and forth between the general themes and contents. Please indicate this move clearly.

3. I suggest revising this quote: “It was my first shift in the ED, which my attending had already grumbled about when she first me, and …” by adding (met) in parenthesis in the beginning: first (met) me?

4. I believe the paper will improve from an elaboration of the theoretical aspects of the discussion.

For example concerning the issue of the higher proportion of positive stories of spending time in EM narrative. Perhaps there is less expectancy from EM staff to have the time or energy to spend time to communicate as their work is more stressful, and then, when this behavior occurs it is more noticed and referred to. (SEE discussion in Karniel-Miller et al., Academic Medicine 2011 about caring/compassion and communication for ideas of the sort. Or the discussion about treating stigmatized populations in the original paper you referred to
Karnieli-Miller et al., 2010). When one does not expect a certain behavior it is noticed and appreciated. Other explanations can be explored in order to increase the interest of these findings.

Other than that the revisions were done and the paper is clear and interesting.

**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.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests’

please note that they did use my analysis method published in the past.