Author's response to reviews

Title: Becoming a general practitioner - Which factors have most impact on career choice of medical students?

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear editors,

Please find attached our revised manuscript “Becoming a general practitioner – Which factors have most impact on career choice of medical students?” (MS: 1934518419460392). We appreciate the opportunity to revise our manuscript. Our responses to the comments are given below. We hope that this revised version can be accepted for publication by BMC Family Practice.

Sincerely

The Authors

Responses to the comments of the reviewer Adrian Hastings
The revised paper is now much improved and I believe can be published with some discretionary revisions. The conclusion that the way to improve recruitment to general practice is to emphasise how family friendly and (professionally speaking) relatively less challenging than hospital specialities is disappointing. The success of British general practice relative to many other countries has been founded on developing our core craft skills, presenting these as complex and valuable to medical students and teaching them systematically to our trainees. Perceptions about demands and rewards of different specialities by students and young doctors are often mismatched with reality, and in Britain general practice has usually experienced a negative impact on recruitment when GPs are seen publically to be talking about personal rewards rather than professional pride in doing a challenging job well.

[Response]
Thank you for your advice. We added following sentences at the end of the conclusions section: It should be a joint effort by physicians as well as at a political level to present the core craft skills of GPs as complex and valuable to medical students and teaching those systematically to vocational trainees. As a final remark, a professional pride in doing a challenging job well should be more reflected and shown by physicians which could have an essential impact on future recruitment.

Responses to the comments of the reviewer Lorelei Jones
One final comment is that in table 2 the second heading is for ‘other sample’ – do they mean ‘population’?
[Response]
Thank you for your final comment. ‘Other sample’ refers to the total sample of medical students in the federal state of Baden-Wuerttemberg (Germany) for 2009/2010. We changed ‘other sample’ into ‘Medical students in BW’.