Reviewer’s report

Title: Leaders, leadership and future primary care research

Version: 1  Date: 12 June 2008

Reviewer: Cindy L Lam

Reviewer’s report:

This is a discussion paper that gives a brief review on the potential contributions, difficulties and capacity building initiatives of primary care research. The Summary points are the best part of the paper and the information in Table 1 is very useful. The Brisbane initiative is very interesting capacity building model.

However, I am sorry to say that most of the information is not original and the discussion is quite difficult to follow. Much of the discussion has little relationship with the title and aim of the paper on "leaders, leadership and future primary care research". There is little connection between sections, and some are contradictory, e.g. section on "Primary care needs its own research base" and that on "Primary care research could help revitalse academic medicine" seems contradictory to each other".

I would suggest the following major revisions:-

1. Focus the discussion on points relevant to leaders, leadership and future of primary care research, instead of repeating too much on argument for the need of primary care research. Please define more clearly leaders and leadership, and any unique characteristics suited for primary care research.

2. Present the discussion in a more systematic and coherent manner following the sequence of the summary points. Please try not to present the whole 'SWOT' analysis in one sentence or one paragraph.

3. Please justify the statement that "Academic medicine is in crisis. Partly this is caused by failure to grapple with research questions important to clinicians and patients..."

4. Please give more details on the Brisbane initiative as a model for leader and leadership training. Information on the background, operation, how people can join, resources requirement, drivers, barriers and outcomes will be useful.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
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.