Reviewer's report

**Title:** Development of burnout over time and the causal order of the three dimensions of burnout among male and female GPs. A three wave panel study.

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 14 September 2010

**Reviewer:** Olaf G Aasland

**Reviewer's report:**

The paper has improved considerably, and does in my opinion not require any major revisions. It is also now much clearer that a major theme is sex (and gender), and it is therefore tempting to point to some other publications from our group where we studied burnout among eight professional groups in a longitudinal perspective (two years), with special attention to sex. One example is: The predictive value of individual factors, work-related factors, and work–home interaction on burnout in female and male physicians: a longitudinal study, see


Look also for other studies by Langballe or Innstrand when discussing reasons for why males and females behave differently with regard to burnout (and the MBI).

I also think the statement on page 17, that the MBI is almost universally used as THE instrument to measure burnout, is a bit exaggerated. We are e.g. also using the OLBI quite often, partly because of the reliability and validity problems with the MBI that are clearly shown in this paper.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests