Reviewer's report

Title: A Survey of Health Professions Students for Knowledge, Attitudes, and Confidence about Tuberculosis, 2005

Version: 2 Date: 3 May 2007

Reviewer: Victoria Elfrink

Reviewer's report:

General
This is a very well written and clear manuscript on a very important topic. I found that some readers might wonder in the "background" portion of the abstract and at the end of the "background" portion wondering: "Why would we need this information prior to the availability of the materials to the recipients".

I do believe that you stated the answer in your conclusions. I think that you were conducting a "needs assessment" of sorts or perhaps a baseline information for the participants so that the educational intervention can be later measured. I would put that statement upfront in your abstract and at the conclusion of your background. Your conclusion states it well.

I think that your commentary about “90% had attended at least one lecture where TB was a primary focus...etc.” should include anecdotally at least some of the more common topics taught in those lectures.

I would encourage the authors to have a "limitations and future directions" section or statement that efforts will be made to determine the reliability of at least the 18 common item instrument.

-----------------------------------------------
Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
NONE
-----------------------------------------------
Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
NONE
-----------------------------------------------
Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
AS WRITTEN ABOVE UNDER GENERAL

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

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.