Reviewer's report

Title: Dietary Supplement Use Among Health Care Professionals enrolled in an Online Curriculum on Herbs and Dietary Supplements

Version: 1 Date: 13 May 2006

Reviewer: Heather Boon

Reviewer's report:

General
This is a clear, well-written paper that presents data that will be of some interest to researchers working in the field, but that are unlikely to have a large impact.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
- None

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
- The conclusion needs to be more specific that these findings are among health care practitioners signing up for an online course on dietary supplements -- I don't think you can conclude that your findings are representative as the conclusion in both the paper and the abstract currently imply.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
- is it possible to compare the demographics of the study sample to population norms for physicians, pharmacists etc either in North Carolina or the USA to attempt to determine how representative your data really are? The key limitation, as is pointed out in the limitation section of the paper, is that these results are likely not generalizable because they are derived from a group of professionals that self-selected to take a course on dietary supplements. Yet if you can show that their demographics parallel the group demographics, it would help to put this potential difference into some perspective. This revision is discretionary because I am not sure how hard it would be to do this.

- I would be interested in seeing some of the bivariate analysis results-- are there differences among the professional groups with respect to their knowledge, and confidence discussion dietary supplements with patients? Or are these findings reported in another paper (if so, perhaps this could be noted more clearly in the paper).

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.