Reviewer's report

Title: Attitudes Towards Fibromyalgia: A Survey of Canadian Chiropractic, Naturopathic, Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Students

Version: 3 Date: 18 February 2008

Reviewer: Sheila Greenfield

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. There are some spelling mistakes and grammatical errors (e.g. incorrect use of punctuation) and the manuscript including the abstract needs to be carefully checked throughout.

2. The Background to the study is very short and a general reader is not given sufficient information to be able to properly understand the context. So that readers can interpret the context before reading about the study and its results there needs to be more information and explanation given a) about fibromyalgia as a medical condition, how it affects patients, how it is managed, why they respond poorly to conventional medicine, why there is scepticism around the diagnosis and why orthodox practitioners feel patients are difficult to treat b) where the statements 'a number of factors may condition... its management come from c) the stated aim is to explore students' attitudes - a brief explanation needs to be included of what the term attitudes encompasses in the study e.g. does it mean; what do they understand about the condition, do they think it should be treated etc? d) why this topic area is an important one

3. Methods; questionnaire development - it would be easier to understand the scope of the questionnaire if more details were given about the number of items in it and a short description of the various themes explored within it.

How were the responses to the open comments analysed?

4. Results - written comments - this section is very short. To say Table 7 presents the themes that emerged without commenting on them is not sufficient.

5. Discussion

The discussion needs to be better organised around the actual aims of the study (see 2c) above. This comment also applies to the section relevant literature as it is not clear how some parts of this are related to the aims of the study. The major and important findings need to be clearly emphasised

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

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 I have no competing interests