Author’s response to reviews

Title: Mentoring programs for medical students - a review of the PubMed literature 2000 - 2008

Authors:

Esther Frei (frei_esther@bluewin.ch)
Martina Stamm (martina.stamm@usz.ch)
Barbara Buddeberg-Fischer (barbara.buddeberg@usz.ch)

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear Editorial Staff

We revised the manuscript as follows:

1. Page 4, under methods, line 5: The authors state: ..online search dated December 2008 to January 2009 Is this correct? I thought, as per your title from the year 2000 to 2008.

We omitted January 2009 (all papers dated 2000 to 2008)

2. Page 5, under mentoring programs for medical students: The authors mention that the 14 papers were from the USA. They need to add a sentence about the sources of the other 11 papers.

In the section “Mentoring programs for medical students” we only refer to the 14 papers on mentoring programs, and all these papers originate from the USA.

The other 11 papers are referred to in the other section on “Overviews of mentoring for medical students”. In this section we describe the various papers in more details. (see page 8 first paragraph under the title “Overviews of mentoring for medical students”) 

3. Page 4, under methods: Have the authors selected only papers in the English Language? They need to state this with their criteria of selection. If they used papers in other languages as well, they need to state and justify this in their selection.

We stated that the search strategy was limited to PubMed for the time period 2000 – 2008. In PubMed all relevant scientific papers are listed irrespective of the language of the full paper. All abstracts are given in English. Therefore the search strategy was not limited to English written papers. All papers we selected for the review have been published in English, but as we mentioned this was not a selection criterion.

“All papers were written in English, but this was not a selection criterion.” (page 4)

4. Page 6, line 11: Tekian [24] should be as per references, changed to Tekian et al [24] aim at ....

We have changed the reference in Tekian et al. [24] in the manuscript (page 6 and 8)

5. The corresponding author has published another paper in 2006 (reference number 1) covering nearly the same topic but by researching Medline literature: Under the discussion, the authors need to add 2-3 lines explaining if there were differences between the two search outcomes and how this paper adds to what we already know from the paper published in 2006. This will give to the reader a meaningful summary.

Medline and PubMed are comparable data bases.


We added the following paragraph (page 12):

“Compared to our review on formal mentoring programs for medical students and physicians [1], the present paper covers the recent period 2000 – 2008, and focuses both on mentoring programs for medical students and on general overviews of mentoring for medical students. It provides a deeper insight into appreciation of mentoring in different countries, and requirements for mentors and mentees to establish an effective and successful mentoring relationship.”

6. As stated in my previous correspondence, please follow the journal instructions to authors and all references should be double spaced.

We recognized the authors’ instructions.
Thank you for your suggestions to improve the paper.
Kind regards
Barbara Buddeberg