Reviewer’s report

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

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 10 September 2009

**Reviewer:** Olaf G Aasland

**Reviewer’s report:**

This interesting review article is a good extension of the 2006 article in Medical Teacher (ref. 1) from the same group. Information like this is very much in demand.

I see no need for neither major nor minor essential revisions. However, I have a few points that might be included in the discussion (well aware that they may not be included in any of the reviewed articles):

1. The mentor’s role in helping a student out of medical school when he/she is clearly not fit for being a physician.

2. The possible effect of "negative mentorship", i.e. when the mentor is clearly not fit for the task or has a hidden agenda, and serves as a negative role model, cf. Judith Lorber’s "Salieri Effect".

3. Some more on (lack of) cost-effectiveness studies on mentorship programs

**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'