Reviewer's report

Title: Undergraduate Educational Environment, Preparedness for Postgraduate Clinical Training, and Pass Rate on the National Medical Licensure Examination in Japan

Version: 1 Date: 22 December 2009

Reviewer: Yasuyuki Suzuki

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:

The essence of this article is the presence of correlation between preparedness of graduates and the learning environment during medical schools, however, it is inappropriate to show the name of medical schools on the table and in the text, since such individual data is not necessary for general readers, and the ranking is not fair. As the previous papers showed (Goldacre et al. BMJ 2003, Cave et al. BMC Med Educ 2007), anonymous numbering should be adopted.

Table 1 is too large and difficult to read out the important message. Figures on the statistical analyses would be better.

Minor Essential Revisions:

Reference 8 is not a paper on the Model Core Curriculum, but an editorial on a national licensing exam in the UK.

Explanation on the Model Core Curriculum and an adequate reference is necessary.

How about the correlation between personal DREEM score of respondents and their confidence rating?

It might be interesting if students with higher confidence perceive their learning environment more positive.

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: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.