Reviewer's report

Title: Pediatric residents' experiences of a clinical rotation in Adolescent Medicine

Version: 1 Date: 19 September 2010

Reviewer: Krishna Upadhya

Reviewer's report:

This article was very well written and makes an important contribution to the field of medical education by providing insight into the process of examining and suggesting ways to measure the non "medical expert" competencies that are essential to medical training. To date, these competencies have received much less attention than those which are more concrete and more easily measured. In addition, the study also provides evidence of the unique contribution of adolescent medicine exposure to the training of pediatric residents.

While the study was only carried out at one institution and over one year, which the authors do acknowledge as a limitation, the manuscript also has several important strengths. The use of qualitative methodology is appropriate for the research question. The manuscript appropriately references and outlines the methodology utilized to analyze and code data and several levels of validity checks were in place. The investigators also took several steps to ensure participant anonymity, which aids in the quality of their data.

I would suggest two essential revisions- actually additions to give the reader a more clear picture of the methodology and results:

1. Please provide a description of the interview guide used to elicit the information. For example a table could list examples of the open ended questions in each topic area covered.

2. Please provide the number of residents who were eligible to participate and clarify the total number of interviews conducted.

I would also suggest a discretionary revision:

For a more recent reference examining the effect of personal values on resident behavior, the authors may consider reviewing and referencing our paper:

I enjoyed reading this paper and could definitely envision referencing it in future work related to resident education.

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.