Reviewer's report

Title: Female and nursing students are more supportive of interprofessional education in healthcare - a study of student and learning environment factors

Version: 3 Date: 18 November 2010

Reviewer: Katherine C Pollard

Reviewer's report:

This paper is now much improved, and the authors have addressed most of the issues raised in the original review. However, I feel that the fact that validity has not been established for the 'Team Player' factor is a major problem, and undermines the robustness of the study.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Although the English is of a far higher standard than was the case in the original submission, there are still a few grammatical mistakes here and there. Please note that individuals are positive or open-minded ABOUT something, not positive or open-minded TO it. It is better not to start a sentence with BUT, rather use a word such as HOWEVER. Check that cases for nouns and verbs match.

2. The paper's opening sentence contains a sweeping generalisation - at the beginning of their education, are ALL students open-minded about collaboration with other professions? This statement needs to be modified.

3. The spelling of Cronbach is incorrect in some places in the paper.

4. The section 'Statistical Methods' should include mention of 'stage of education' being used as an independent variable, as results based on it are presented later in the paper.

5. It would be helpful to provide a table showing the RIPLS scale statements that were not used in the 'Team Player' section, but which were included in the analysis.

6. In the section 'Multivariate Associations', it is stated that 'In the multiple regressions performed on each one of the 11 items in this factor, the variables gender and educational programme showed an independent and significant association.' This is misleading, as it implies that both variables showed such an association for each of the 11 items. It would be clearer to say that ’... the variables gender and/or educational programme showed .....’

7. In the 'Discussion' section, it is a stated that, because students are more positive earlier on in their education, 'there does not seem to be any change of attitudes ...'. This is not accurate - it seems that there is a change of attitude, in that they become less positive (about what? - see comment 5 above) as they progress through their studies.

Major Compulsory Revisions
The issue of the validity of the 'Team Player' factor has still not been satisfactorily addressed. A statement that the factor appears to have face validity is not sufficient, and not even necessarily accurate. For example, an examination of the statements in the factor could equally lead to the conclusion that it is measuring respondents' attitudes towards the effect of undergraduate IPE on their future career. I feel that it is essential that this issue is addressed properly.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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 that I have no competing interests.