Reviewer’s report

Title: Mentorship needs at academic institutions in resource-limited settings: A survey at Makerere University College of health sciences

Version: 1 Date: 18 March 2011

Reviewer: Noeline Nakasujja

Reviewer’s report:

Study: “Mentorship needs at academic institutions in resource–limited settings: A survey at Makerere University College of health Sciences”

This paper reports the current state of mentoring at an institution with limited resources especially the human resource that would be required for mentoring future health scientists. It would be an excellent manuscript given the questions asked and the methodology of collecting the information apart from some deficiencies that need to be worked on in order to improve the reporting of the findings.

Major Compulsory Revisions.
1. The method of analysis of the qualitative data collected is not well described in the abstract and main body of the manuscript. How were the themes generated? Did they stem from the questions asked of the respondents?

Minor Essential Revisions
1. It would be helpful if the basic principles of mentorship are highlighted in the introduction of the manuscript.
2. The coined terms: “mentoring culture” and “culture of mentoring” seemed to be used to interchangeably. Is there an agreed use of each of the terms?

Abstract:
3. In the introduction of the abstract the sentence reads “….this resource…..” which resource setting are you referring to?
4. Results: How many more mentees are being referred to in the second line?

Main body
Methods:
6. The support information that appears in the study population section could go well in the acknowledgement section.
7. Could you describe the study population i.e. is senior, junior, potential not potential mentee or mentor?
8. How were the responses to the in-depth information collected?

Results:
9. In the first paragraph you mention eligible mentors who were these individuals?

Discussion:
10. The first paragraph has a section that could fit well in the recommendation section
“……..explore all possible strategies ……mentors”

11. The report on the seminar following data collection of the study seems to be misplaced in the discussion section.

12. Under the sub heading; “Improvement of mentorship skills” the second paragraph, last sentence indicates a model that is being used in other settings, which model is being referred to?

13. In the same paragraph, why the special mention for training and mentoring for HIV/AIDS care, how about the other conditions?

14. There are a number of grammatical errors that should also be corrected.

15. No limitations have been mentioned in this study.

**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 interest