Reviewer’s report

Title: Psychometric properties and confirmatory factor analysis of the Jefferson Scale of Physician Empathy

Version: 2 Date: 16 June 2011

Reviewer: Mohammadreza Hojat

Reviewer’s report:

I see some improvements in the revised version. A few minor points that can add to the strength of the manuscript:

- At the bottom of page 3, the statement “Nevertheless, its validity for use by medical students to assess medical students has not been firmly established” is incorrect. Because there a number of published studies on the validity of the Jefferson Scale of Empathy, the correct statement would be something to this effect that “Nevertheless, its construct validity for use by medical students needs to be further confirmed.”

- Although items 1, 8, and 15 did not have significant factor coefficients, but because of their corrected item-total correlations were statistically significant, they can significantly contribute to the total scale score. They measure a trivial factor, and authors’ suggestion to delete those items from the scale would not be justifiable. This should be indicated in the manuscript.

- More importantly, as I indicated before, as the author of the Jefferson Scale of Empathy I must declare a conflict of interest in my review of this submission that must be posted if you plan to disseminate reviewer’s comments.