Reviewer's report

Title: Self-assessment of intercultural communication skills: a survey of physicians and medical students in Geneva, Switzerland

Version: 1 Date: 10 July 2011

Reviewer: Louise Dubras

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Minor Essential Revisions:
1. The second paragraph of the introduction requires clarification of terminology: what is meant by "foreign population"; what is meant by "swiss" and "non swiss"; terminology needs to be be firmed up and perhaps some background given as to the population in the rest of Switzerland.
2. The paper starts talking about "multicultural" but is really addressing "multiethnicity" or "multilingual" populations.
3. Please justify your sampling strategy.
4. Presentation of results in text: the age data as presented in the text is not meaningful unless associated with for example the professional status of the respondent. Similarly, the raw data on competencies would be better related to professional status.

Discretionary revisions:
1. perhaps expand on your conclusion to take account of alternative, desirable ways of assessing cultural competence; perhaps a qualitative study examining patient’s views of consultations with physicians; since this data is entirely clinician centred.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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