Reviewer's report

**Title:** Comparing gender awareness in Dutch and Swedish first-year medical students - results from a questionnaire

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 18 October 2011

**Reviewer:** Carol Rivas

**Reviewer's report:**

This was an excellent manuscript that delivered throughout. The background begins with a succinct yet comprehensive summary of gender issues in healthcare and continues to cover all the necessary points throughout. Its message is pertinent and valid and its discussion comprehensive and thoughtful. This was a paper written with a great deal of thought.

The few comments I have made are minor. I did feel that the data repeatedly triggered questions in the reader’s mind that were only answered several paragraphs later. However they were then answered so well, drawing together several strands of the findings, that I have not suggested changes to the manuscript to address this.

Methods - why was socioeconomic status not included in the questionnaire?
- the section on the questionnaire would benefit from more detail on the validation
- the section on analysis would benefit from a little more detail on the methods used
- At the end of the discussion, subsection on method, you should also mention other quantitative approaches that could be used or why they are not appropriate e.g. sample, alternative survey.
- when discussing the results, you might draw out the issue of giving a politically correct answer a little more
- at the end some of the statements might be formulated into recommendations for further research; at the moment they are presented rather as reflection and observation.

**minor issues not for publication**
- abstract background sp - the first sentence is slightly odd. Who has requested it? Do you mean 'is needed'? Implementation of gender perspective - do you mean implementation of teaching on gender perspectives
- perspectives is better than perspective throughout
- In the background, in the paragraph beginning Even though the Netherlands, the word short before part-time should be deleted
- the last sentence of the background does not flow naturally from the previous
paragraph but seems isolated
- in the discussion, subsection on method, the paragraph beginning Using a scale - should be singular ie 'obviously has'. In the next sentence should be 'using such an instrument'. the sentence However, the methods - 'reflection' should be singular. The paragraph should end with a full stop.
- discussion on results: 'politically correct answer'

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

**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