Reviewer's report

Title: Self-reported evaluation of competencies and attitudes by physicians-in-training before and after a single day legislative advocacy experience

Version: 1 Date: 16 March 2012

Reviewer: Sara Stafford

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revision: n/a
Minor Essential Revisions:
1) page 3, line 12: physicians' should not be possessive
2) In the Skills section, a difference of 0.04 on the Likert Scale, with a P=0.72, is identified as a slight increase. This may be an over-representation of the result.
3) Please double-check the statistical analysis in the Attitude section of the Result, where a difference of 0.01 is analyzed as a P=0.12. This may be a calculation error as this is a smaller P value than is seen in other calculations with a much larger absolute difference.

Discretionary Revisions:
1) Please include the number of individuals who participated in the event, and therefore the percentage of event participants who completed your survey.
2) The discussion does included an explanation that this is a small, self-selected sample, but more commentary on the effect of this design should be included. I am not certain that it is true that this would not impact the differences between paired pre- and post-test scores as this population may be biased to view the event more positively.
3) Please include some information about how individuals were able to participate in the event, e.g. did they receiving travel funding, and how the event itself was funded.
4) Please included a more detailed explanation as to how the survey questions were developed, and were they validated in any way?
5) Why was this form of Likert scale used? A 5-point scale which includes an "undecided" bracket can bias results to the mean.
6) Is "worthwhileness" the best term to use? (p. 11)

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

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 interests.