Reviewer's report

Title: Medical Students’ Choices of Specialty in The Gambia: The Need for Career Counselling

Version: 1 Date: 11 April 2012

Reviewer: Jean-Karl Soler

Reviewer's report:

Dear Sir,

I liked reading the article on preferences for specialities by medical students in the Gambia, and hope it may eventually be published.

However, I have the following comments on necessary improvements which I suggest before the article should be published:

1. I propose that the methodology section should come before the results section, and should also be summarised in the abstract.

2. Proportions reports in the results section should include 95% confidence intervals, or at least the SD.

3. Table numbering in the text may be erroneous (Table number 4.2, rather than 2?)

4. The referencing style in the discussion section is not consistent. Mwachaka and Mbugua, 2010 is referred to as text (not a numeric reference) and is not in the list of references.

5. There are a large number of data collected, with many variables, of which only sex was statistically tested. This is very unusual.

6. In the discussion, an analytical contrast with existing literature, as well as discussion of strengths and limitations, is needed.

7. In Table 2, the percentages in the columns are for the row numbers. I would also divide speciality choice by column percentages, so that the column percentages total 100%.

I hope the suggestions are useful.

regards

Jean K Soler

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 interests'