Reviewer's report

**Title:** Teaching and Evaluation Methods of Medical Ethics in the Saudi Public Medical Colleges: Cross-Sectional Questionnaire Study

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 20 March 2013

**Reviewer:** Sara Ashencaen Crabtree

**Reviewer's report:**

A potentially useful paper on an interesting if neglected topic.

**Minor essential revisions**

I note a large number of grammatical and syntax errors in the text and would strongly advise the authors to use a professional proof reading service to bring the text up to publishing standards. For example, the authors need to refer to the country as either the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia or just Saudi Arabia (see top of p. 2 for errors in this respect).

**Discretionary revisions**

Of equal importance, in my opinion, is the need to enlighten the reader towards the cultural and religious parameters within which medical ethics are taught. Reference to Sharia Law is made but this is not clarified with regards to how it may inform, shape or influence teaching - however, undoubtedly it does (or so I assume). Furthermore, there is an intriguing comment about the ‘virtuous traits’ of a Muslim doctor but sadly, this is not explained. However, this is surely a very important point to expand on in order to illuminate the reader concerning how medical ethics may be treated in Muslim countries, if such concepts can be extrapolated across regions.

Finally, find it rather strange that although there is a reference to medical ethics globally there appears to be no reference to any other nation apart from the USA. It would be helpful if this could be addressed.

Although due to the criteria of the journal, my recommendations remain discretionary, I would strongly urge the authors to revise their text accordingly as this would undoubtedly strengthen their work and make it of greater interest to a wider audience.

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

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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