Reviewer's report

Title: Neurophobia among medical students and non-specialist doctors in Sri Lanka

Version: 2 Date: 28 July 2013

Reviewer: Eoin P Flanagan

Reviewer's report:

Matthias et al, via a questionnaire based study, highlight the presence of neurophobia in Sri Lanka in part due to poor neuroscience/neuroanatomy teaching and the overall complexity of neurology and its physical exam. The paper is well written. Although neurophobia has been described in many regions of the world this study provides important information about the existence of neurophobia in a region of the world where such studies are lacking.

Major Comments:
1. More statistical information would be helpful. P values of the comparisons between specialties (at least for neurology) should be added to the table and text. Standard error bars should be added to the figure. Does the (+-) after each number refer to the standard deviation? It should be stated what it refers to.
2. It would be of interest to know the structure and duration of the neurology curriculum in medical schools in Sri Lanka. In the article (Ridsdale et al, practical neurology, 2007) cited by the authors it seems that improvement in the quantity and quality of the neurology curriculum can reduce neurophobia among trainees.
3. Could the authors comment on the ratio of neuroloists per population and its potential implications for neurophobia in Sri Lanka? Authors in previous studies (Flanagan et al, European Journal of Neurology, 2007; and Ridsdale et al, practical neurology 2007) have suggested that this may be a contributor.
4. There are now studies from many regions of the world highlighting the global issue of neurophobia. Perhaps the authors at the end of their article could expand on future directions and discuss shifting the focus of research from demonstrating neurophobia to studying strategies to decrease it (some of these issues were highlighted in a systematic review Mc Colgan et al, European Journal of Neurology, 2013).

Minor comments
1. First paragraph reference 12, does not seem to relate to that sentence. Should there be a different reference there?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable
**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests