Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 8 August 2013

Reviewer: Farid Youssef

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The authors investigate the well documented phenomena of ‘neurophobia’. They seek to determine if both medical students and non-specialist doctors also demonstrate neurophobia with the local context but given that this issue has been well described elsewhere there is no reason to suggest that the situation in Sri Lanka would be any different. In this light I would have been interested to see a greater description about the way neuroscience and neurology are taught within the Sri Lankan context.

Major Revisions

1. Introduction
The introduction read very much like similar papers and a strong case is not made for why this study needs to be done in Sri Lanka.

2. Methodology
Greater detail could have been provided concerning the methodology.
i. How were persons selected to participate (type of sampling) in the study and how were they contacted
ii. What was the experience level of the doctors and what year of study were the students?
iii. How was the questionnaire validated? Was the questionnaire adapted from previous studies? This appears to be the case but no references are provided.
iv. The description of the questions asked needs to be done in a more succinct and easily accessible manner.

3. Results
i. There seems to be a discrepancy between how persons rated the subjects they were most interested in where neurology ranked third but then in the next paragraph were are told that neurology is the topic in which the most persons said they are least interested.
ii. Tables should be presented in descending order for ease of reference.
iii. When presenting statistical significance it is unclear what is being compared with what; this is especially true when the assessment of presenting symptoms is reported.
iv. Overall I found the presentation of the results somewhat difficult to follow and consideration should be given to a more appropriate means

4. Discussion
The discussion is somewhat limited. It fails to indicate what new has been added to the literature and how these findings can be applied to drive change in the local context. Also no reasons are offered as to why neurophobia exists bases upon a discussion of the current curriculum. Also there is no description of any limitations of the current study.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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

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