Author's response to reviews

Title: Patterns and trends of medical student research

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Response to comments by Thed Van Leeuwen

1. Methodology section, first paragraph
Suggested changes made in the document
2. Discussion section – Vancouver convention
A description of Vancouver convention has been added
3. Last paragraph in discussion
Paragraph has been revised, however I was unable to find the “is” referred to.

All changes have been indicated in the document with Track Changes option in Microsoft word.

Response to comments by Ravi Shankar

1. “Majority of these articles have not been cited”
The sentence was revised. The idea we were trying to convey was 59.1% of articles were not cited in Pubmed or Scopus.
2. Specific objectives of the study
We have elaborated more on the objectives.
3. Page 5, sentence “studies where neither…..”
The sentence has been revised.
4. “Senior authors using medical students”
The number of medical student authors have not increased per publication but probably the number of “honorary” authors have increased
5. Page 8, conclusions section
We have included the justifications for the conclusions in the discussion section.
6. Google scholar and other databases
We did not include Google Scholar for several reasons including its inclusion of
websites and non-indexed journals as citations to articles and the lack of the ability to search using author affiliations.

7. Strategies to increase research output from developing countries
We have made several suggestions in the text

8. Reference style
The style has been formatted using Endnote® and manually checked

9. Checking for citations
Articles were checked for citations in Pubmed®. Google scholar was not used due to reasons given in number 6 above.

10. Inclusion of medical student journals / non indexed journals
A search on google for medical student journals identified more than 25 journals in the first 3 pages, a large number been non indexed. The actual number is probably several-folds higher and the process would be exhaustive.

11. Language and grammar corrections
The manuscript has been revised
All changes have been indicated in the document with Track Changes option in Microsoft word.