Reviewer's report

Title: Patterns and trends of medical student research

Version: 1 Date: 24 September 2013

Reviewer: P Ravi Shankar

Reviewer's report:

I congratulate the authors on an interesting manuscript. However the manuscript requires revisions before it is ready for publication.

Major compulsory revisions:

1. Abstract section: Results subsection, what do you mean by the statement majority of these articles have not been cited?
2. Page 4: Can the patterns and trends of medical student research be described in more detail? What were the specific objectives of the study?
3. Page 5, I am not sure that the sentence ‘Studies where neither the abstract nor the full text articles were unavailable’ is grammatically correct.
4. Page 7, I did not understand what the authors meant by senior authors using medical students to increase their tally of publications.
5. Page 8, Conclusions section. The authors should explicitly explain how the last sentence in the Conclusion section directly follows from their observations.
6. Searching only in Pubmed and Scopus may not provide information on all the articles published by medical students which could be a limitation of the study. I am curious about why the authors did not search in Google Scholar and in a number of other databases which should be available to the authors through HINARI.
7. What strategies do the authors recommend to increase the number of publications from developing countries?
8. The references should be written using a uniform format and the journal style should be strictly followed.
9. Figure 2 looks confusing. I think fewer countries can be shown. Or maybe one set of countries can be shown in one graph and others in another. The same problem is also noted in Figure 3.
10. How did the authors determine whether the published articles were cited? Also what was considered by the authors as indicating citation of an article? These days many articles are available online and can be searched through Google scholar. Do the authors consider Google scholar as an indexing service?
11. Recently a number of medical student journals have been started and many of these may not be included in Pubmed or Scopus. Also many medical journals have a medical student section and student editors. I think student journal scan
play an important role in promoting medical student research. The authors should mention about this somewhere in their manuscript.

12. The manuscript would benefit from language and grammar corrections.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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