Reviewer's report

Title: Incorporating the concept of Emotional Intelligence (EI) into a Personal and Professional Development (PPD) programme.

Version: 2 Date: 18 December 2012

Reviewer: David J Solomon

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

There are no research questions stated in the introduction. It would be helpful to have some clearly defined research questions and or hypotheses. The first sentence of the Conclusion Section states:

“The purpose of this paper was to provide an outline of a PPD programme and to demonstrate how the concept of EI can be included in a course of eight three hour teaching sessions within the context of a systems based medical curriculum.”

Virtually all the data collected and analyzed focused on the relationship between two measures of emotional intelligence and other factor such as gender and academic performance. The study only included a single generic programme evaluation “The following were a useful learning experience” of a series of aspects of the curriculum including components of the PPD course.

There appears to be a discrepancy between the stated purpose of the paper and the data analysis. That being said, the study does provide some interesting results concerning the relationship between measures of emotional intelligence and academic performance. I do believe the authors need to clarify the research questions and for the focus of the data analysis and conclusions to be consistent with the research questions and stated purpose of the study.

Minor Essential Revisions

It was not clear why the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test for normality was conducted. The test was not discussed and did not seem pertinent to the questions addressed in the study. The number of students in each group was large enough so that the central limit theorem would apply and normally would not be an issue in conducting the other inferential statistical tests.

Otherwise, the analyses seemed appropriate for the questions addressed. The results were reported in an appropriate manner.

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