Reviewer’s report

Title: Few Gender Differences in Swedish Medical Students’ Specialty Preferences A Study of Motivational Factors and Their Impact on Last-Year Students’ Specialty Preferences

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Reviewer: Elianne Riska

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This paper examines if there are any gender differences in Swedish medical students’ specialty preferences and the motivational factors that contributed to the students’ preferences for various specialties. The data map the views of last-year medical students at one medical school in Sweden during 2006-2009 (a high response rate, 89%). The findings show minor or no gender differences. One finding is interesting: a much higher proportion of female students (54%) than male students (36%) planned to work part-time (p. 5). This is also a finding shown by Boulis & Jacobs (2008, eg. p.58, 156, 163-172) who noted that opportunities for part-time work had declined during 1980-2000 in American medicine and they expected that many female medical students will be surprised by the lack of opportunities to work part-time. It would be interesting if the authors of the Swedish study could elaborate further on the fact that currently 29% of female physicians work part-time (p. 10) : will there be part-time jobs for physicians in Sweden in the future?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests