Reviewer's report

Title: Accreditation in a Sub Saharan Medical School an Approach to Education at Makerere University: a case study

Version: 2 Date: 5 February 2013

Reviewer: Hans Karle

Reviewer's report:

This paper deals with the process of quality improvement of a medical school in a low resource country by development of institutional guidelines using the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) Global Standards for Basic (Undergraduate) Medical Education as a model. In principle, such an initiative is interesting.

The title of the paper is not adequate since the authors are working only with standards which could be the basis for accreditation and not with the total process of accreditation. The authors should either change the title or reflect on a future accreditation system for medical schools in the country or region (East Africa).

Some more details:
- In the Introduction, § 1, reference is made to 1600 medical schools in the world. The correct number is unknown but closer to 2100. Reference could be made to the Avicenna Directory or the FAIMER Directory. This higher estimate makes the lack of existing accreditation even worse since the growth in number especially includes private schools not covered by existing accreditation systems.
- In the Introduction, §2, there should be a reference to the WHO/WFME Strategic Partnership of 2004 (see WFME website).
- In Methods and Materials, reference 2 is not a WHO paper but published by the independent (WHO associated) organisation Towards Unity for Health (TUFH).
- same section, §4, reference should be made to the WFME template (Basic Medical Education. WFME Global Standards for Quality Improvement. WFME Office, University of Copenhagen, Denmark 2003).
- In Engagement of Partners, §1; same comment as above regarding relationship between WHO and TUFH
- same section, §2, the expression "refinement of standards" should be changed to "adjustments to".

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:
No conflict of interest