Reviewer's report

Title: What is different about medical students interested in non-clinical careers?

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Reviewer: Desiree Cox-Maksimov

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
The article does not address the question raised in the title.
Why is there a growing need for medical educators to understand factors that influence medical students' choice of alternative careers? What are the implications of medical students' choices? In other words so what?
The sentence structure and writing is clumsy in places. There is an over use of 'furthermore', 'moreover' etc. What do these words contribute to the sentences? What are the 'external' factors that influence choices of specialty etc.
In the intro, the article asks whether there are differences in background between students who intend clinical careers and those who intend non-clinical careers, but this issue is not addressed in the paper. The paper also asks whether there is a difference in motivation and perceptions of medicine and practice and, while there is an attempt to look at this in the study, the answers to these questions are not fully articulated in the discussion. Questions raised in the intro, should be answered in the discussion, or at least mapped out in the discussion with an indication of the limitations of the study and a idea of what aspect of the question is addressed by the study.

Minor essential revisions.
What aspects of the instrument selected have been left out and why?
What is the theory behind the choice of instrument, what other options or approaches are there for addressing the issues?
Give an idea of the medical school curricula in place at the institutions selected. There are now several different kinds of curricula in place at medical schools around the world. Is this a curricula that uses Problem based learning or team based learning or is it more traditional? How does the quality of healthcare in Korea relate to the main question of the paper.
What's the bottom line? Can the conclusions be summarized in a table please?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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'