Reviewer's report

Title: Global Health Opportunities within Pediatric Subspecialty Fellowship Training Programs: A Survey of the Virtual Landscape

Version: 1 Date: 30 April 2013

Reviewer: Mark K Huntington

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The authors present the collation of global health opportunities, gleaned through internet searching, available during pediatric subspecialty training. Although similar studies have been reported at the residency level for several disciplines, this appears to be the first to look at the fellowship level in pediatrics. As such, it represents a unique contribution to the medical education literature, filling an up-to-now vacant niche. It is well written, based on sound methods, with appropriate analytical methods employed. Discretionary revisions follow:

Specific, minor suggestions by page.paragraph.line (with the title page given the number “1”):

7.3.1 “total number of opportunity types”, consider adding “within global health” (as on page 8) to clarify that this is specifically global health – vs. total – opportunities.

9.1.6 “…subspecialty fellowship post-residency training.” Please include a citation for this “one third” citation.

9.1.8 Consider adding “or that translates to improved global child health” [from 11.2.8]. If all that global health medical education achieves are skills then applied to North American subspecialty practice, we run the risk of “educational imperialism”.

In addition, consider expanding the discussion to further explore the role of fellowship-trained pediatricians in global health settings. Do they contribute via their subspecialty, or as general pediatricians? In other words, is there a meaningful advantage to the local population from their subspecialty, or is the value of the global health experience primarily personal/educational enrichment plus general pediatrics (not to discount their value as general pediatricians, of course). I recognize that your data doesn’t give insight here, but please speculate. Why should fellowships send their fellows abroad? You cite “one-third of pediatric residents desire to have global health as part of their careers” (p.9) and that 40% pursue subspecialty fellowships. Please include your thoughts on how this works out: do a third of the fellows also have this desire, or is the pool from which the fellows is drawn from the 67% without a global health interest?

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'