Reviewer's report

Title: Evaluating a Grading Change at UCSD School of Medicine: Pass/Fail Grading is Associated with Decreased Performance on Preclinical Exams but Unchanged Performance on USMLE Step 1 Scores

Version: 1 Date: 2 April 2014

Reviewer: William Tormey

Reviewer's report:

This is an excellent paper. I wonder whether the use of "quarters" instead of semesters is legitimate. Four quarters = 1 but here in context three = 1 yr!

Do you think that the plethora of regression scores in tables 2 and 3 are really necessary in the paper or should be summarised and kept as supplemental data available through the usual methods.

Spelling error page 8 line 3.

Add IRB and MECS to list of abbreviations

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