Author's response to reviews

Title: Formation of medical student professional identity: categorizing lapses of professionalism, and the learning environment.

Authors:

Walter J Hendelman (whendelm@uottawa.ca)
Anna Byszewski (abyszewski@ottawahospital.on.ca)

Version: 3 Date: 29 June 2014

Author's response to reviews:

June 29, 2014
Mr. Aldrin Ulep
BMC Medical Education

Dear Mr. Ulep

RE: “Formation of medical student professional identity: categorizing lapses of professionalism, and the learning environment”, authored by Dr. W. Hendelman and Dr. A. Byszewski.

We are most pleased that the manuscript has been accepted for publication, pending clarification as outlined in your letter (e-mail) dated June 12, 2014. We would like to respond to the question about the study conforming to the RATS guidelines for qualitative research.

Our study is not a qualitative research study in the way that the RATS guidelines define that term, so the RATS guidelines do not apply in our case. Ours is a descriptive study and the use of the term ‘qualitative’ was based on a component of the survey that included open-ended questions. These sections allowed the respondents to amplify, qualify and /or otherwise explain their response, should they wish to do so.

Having noted this, because the term may lead others to expect a different type of study or may cause some confusion for the reader, we are removing the word qualitative from the 2 places that this word is used – in the Abstract and in the Methods section. Instead we now have used the term ‘open-ended’ (with explanation) and re-submit the MS for your final consideration.

We trust this addresses the issue.

Dr. W. Hendelman
Professor Emeritus