Reviewer's report

Title: Convergence and translation: bringing medicine and engineering students together to develop novel healthcare engineering solutions to real-life clinical problems

Version: 2 Date: 12 October 2013

Reviewer: Carol Herbert

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Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. Results: I was confused by the description of the sample which indicates 25.96% Engineering staff and 25.48% Medicine – unclear whether staff or students. The authors need to report on response rate for all 4 categories (Eng staff and students, Med staff and students), and preferably for each university as well as across the two universities to demonstrate that the data indeed is derived across the two sample schools. The authors have provided an analysis of the data and interesting conclusions with respect to how the module to teach creativity and innovation had to be designed; however, the limited response rate makes it difficult to judge the validity of their findings.

2. Limitations related to the response rate need to be stated. The authors do state the limitation of only collecting data from two universities. However, it would be a good idea if they made the point that the survey was to fine-tune their learning module, a kind of validity check, rather than fundamental to the design.

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. I noted one typo = “Students” should be singular when referring to student groups in the Method section.

2. The title confused me as I expected a description of the results of the use of the teaching module. The abstract clearly describes the intent of the paper. It would be helpful if the authors modified the title to indicate this paper reports on a survey prior to development of the teaching module. For example, they could keep the main title – “Convergence and translation”, followed by: “a survey of……” or “attitudes to inter-professional learning and teaching of creative problem-solving among medical and engineering students and staff.” The title should describe what is actually in the paper.

In spite of the limitations of sample size, I think this paper should be published as there is much interest in inter-professional education and different characteristics among professional students that need to be taken into account when designing course material and learning approaches.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely
related research interests

**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.