Reviewer's report

**Title:** The relationship between medical student learning opportunities and preparedness for practice: A questionnaire study

**Version:** 1

**Date:** 18 August 2014

**Reviewer:** Judith Cave

**Reviewer's report:**

I really enjoyed this paper, especially the discussion. The authors have written lucidly and helpfully about the difficulties inherent in studying preparedness, and they have drawn some helpful conclusions about appropriate next steps. I agree that the challenge for educationalists is to help students maximise the benefits from the available learning opportunities. I feel that their opinions are interesting and valid.

My only issue with this paper is that the questionnaire was distributed before the doctors actually started work. This means that the data refers entirely to anticipated preparedness: the doctors have not actually had the opportunity to experience the workplace and therefore the authors' results are not directly comparable to the previous studies which were performed during the first year of work. I think this is important, and needs to be clarified within the manuscript. I do not think it invalidates the results, but I think direct comparison (which the authors have refrained from) is not appropriate. I am concerned that the anxiety to which they refer may have affected the results.

**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