Reviewer's report

Title: Undergraduate research in medical education: a descriptive study of students' views

Version: 1 Date: 11 April 2013

Reviewer: Karl Kingsley

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript describes a well defined topic that is adequately described by the title and abstract, includes appropriate and well described methods and results that adhere to publication standards, the discussion is supported by the data presented, and previous work is clearly referenced and acknowledged.

This reviewer recommends acceptance after minor essential revisions.

First, there is no defined section that describes the limitations of this study. Since it is descriptive - and a survey - there are many such limitations to be described. The authors should make an attempt to convey they understand these limits clearly.

Some minor editing is warranted. For example:

Page 4, Line 1: should read "No structured curricular....."
Page 4, Line 3: should read "...willing and available to facilitate these projects." 
Page 4, Line 8: should read "...including questions and open-ended comments, was designed using input from undergraduate students, following a pilot study"
Page 4, second to last line: should read "published" not publicized
Page 5, Line 1: delete "quantitative"
Page 5, General data, line 1: should read "by 415 students (yielding a response rate of 76.8%)"
Page 5, General data, line 8: should read "...had participated in some type of research project..."
Page 5, Undergraduate research and motivation, line 1: should read "The survey revealed that of the 219 students who had not participated in any research project during undergraduate education, 187 (85.4%) showed an interest. This group felt....... while 32 reported no plans for such activity.
Page 6, line 2: delete "in June 2009"
Page 6, line 5: suggest beginning with "Analysis of these data also revealed that student motivation to...."
Page 6, line 8: replace "chosen" with "cited"
Page 6, second full paragraph "Students involved with...." This paragraph is confusing. Consider deleting or re-phrasing, please
Page 6, third paragraph: replace "We should add" with "It should be noted..." This is a research article and should be written in the passive voice.

Page 6, last paragraph "For 24.5%...." is also very confusing. Consider deleting or completely re-phrasing, please.

Page 7, please delete "Like the following example....." This was not helpful and merely repeated what the authors already stated.

Page 8, same comment - please delete "for example: "Lack of information...." This was not helpful or insightful, but merely repeated what the authors already stated. Consider keeping comments to an appendix for review.

Page 9, last line: please delete "students made some comments about this topic..."undergraduate......"; This was also not insightful or helpful.

Page 10, consider revising to "Developing critical understanding of medical publication was cited by 10.7%, while a combination of these factors...."

Page 10, last paragraph: revise to "The majority (67.9%) of completed projects were presented at...."

Page 10, last paragraph: Delete "Congress" and begin with "Presentation..."

Page 12, line 12: revise to "....student demotivation, primarily centered on....";

Page 12, line 13: revise to "....the supervisor should have greater....."

Page 12, line 19: delete "the question of"

Page 13, last paragraph: Consider deleting the sentence "Such meetings...." This did not add value to the manuscript.

Page 14, line 3: Change "Our" to "This" - should be written in passive voice.

Page 14, line 7: consider deleting "and is comparable to that verified for Dutch..." This is not really a relevant comparison.

Page 14, line 12: replace "inferior to international experiences like Stanford" with "lower than research intensive programs at Stanford"

Page 14: consider deleting "The longest running UR course...." this is confusing.

Page 14: also consider deleting the paragraph beginning with "Scientific publication..." this doesn't add value to the manuscript or clarify any relevant point.

Page 14, last paragraph: Begin with "Similar to UR worldwide....."

Page 15, consider deleting paragraph beginning with "Regarding this question..." This doesn't really provide context for this study but is more governmental and policy directed.....

Page 16, second paragraph: consider deleting the sentence "The teaching model...."

Page 17: replace "reality" with student perception in all instances.

Page 17: conclusions: Replace "The project" with "A survey"

These are mainly minor revisions, but this reviewer hopes this will improve the
overall readability of the manuscript and would like to congratulate the authors for their work on this very important topic in Medical Education.

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.