Reviewer's report

Title: Predictive validity of a new integrated selection process for medical school admission

Version: 1 Date: 19 January 2014

Reviewer: Annette Mercer

Reviewer's report:

The paper is well written and follows a similar methodology to a number of other studies in this field. The outcomes of the study are also similar to others, so this provides further evidence on the utility of the three-component selection process adopted some years ago by most Australian undergraduate medical schools.

I would put all the following proposed revisions in the discretionary category:

1. I am unsure of any value added to the study by the inclusion of results from the 2002 and 2003 cohorts. This part could be excluded and the paper would still make its main points. The lack of correlation with TER for the 2002 cohort is to be expected due to a severe TER range restriction in this cohort.

2. I consider the small but significant increments in variance from the communication score to be important. This has been seen in at least one other study. The authors have played down this contribution, however as a proponent of the interview I consider this increment to be valuable. I agree with their final sentence.

3. Interview 6 - cope with uncertainty makes a significant negative contribution to WAM phase 1 and 3 and Knowledge phase 3. This is not commented upon, however it does contribute to the variance.

4. The authors comment that their classification of school types into educational levels may not have been optimum and I agree with them. This is a weakness which may have had other outcomes, had the categorisation been more mainstream. As it stands it could not be replicated in other states of Australia. Most other states have only one or two selective schools, so NSW is unique in this categorisation.

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