Author's response to reviews

Title: Applying a hybrid team-based and lecture-based learning method to neurology clerkship in China

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Dear Editor(s),

Thanks for your kind advice on the format changes. We have made the following two changes accordingly.

Change 1: a declaration on the ethic approval has been added to the Methods section as below:

"Before the research was conducted, the plan had been reviewed and approved by the Department of Education, Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Hospital of SYSU. Since the research involved only medical students and no vulnerable groups, we did not seek formal approval from an ethics committee. We declare that this research is in compliance with the Helsinki Declaration."

Change 2: a new section "Competing Interests" has been added right after Abbreviations section as below:

"Competing interests
The authors declare that they have no competing interests."

By the way, we are sorry that no formal approval has been applied for this paper. The reasons we considered an ethical approval might not be required are as follows.

1. The research involved only medical students. No vulnerable groups were involved.

2. Before the research was conducted, the research plan had been reviewed and approved by the Department of Education, Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Hospital of Sun Yat-Sen University.
3. No sensitive topics were involved.

4. No deception was involved.

5. No access or disclosures of personal or confidential information were involved.

6. No psychological stress, anxiety, humiliation or pain was caused by the research.

7. No intrusive interventions were conducted.

BMC Medical Education is such a famous journal that we want to try our best for it. Instead of providing an ethic approval, can we provide a ethical statement to state that no formal approval has been applied for this paper and elaborate the reasons?

Thank you again for your kind considerations. For future projects we'll try to get formal approval or response from appropriate ethic committee, even if they state that the ethical review is not needed.

Best Regards,
Lian-hong Yang