Author's response to reviews

Title: Medical student and academic staff perceptions of role models: an analytical cross-sectional study

Authors:
Ali Akbar A.A. Haghdoost (ahaghdoost@kmu.ac.ir)
Mohamad Reza M.R. Shakibi (mrshakibi@gmail.com)

Version: 7 Date: 3 February 2006

Author's response to reviews:

Dear Editorial board
I highly appreciate the valuable comments of Dr. Curran-Everett. I amended the paper according to the proposed suggestions. Please find my responses to his comments as follow:

Compulsory revisions
1. Checking normality assumption for Pearson correlation: Using both one sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov test and sktest, none of the p-values were significant (minimum and maximum p-values were 0.18 and 0.83 respectively), which means that the distributions of variables did not have significant differences with the normal distribution. Therefore, I think we can rely on the Pearson correlation coefficients. Nevertheless, I computed Spearman and even Kendall Correlation Coefficients, hopefully the conclusion based on all of these three types of correlation coefficients were comparable. For clarification, I added a sentence in the sixth paragraph of the method and material and mentioned that I checked the normality assumption.
2. Power estimation: I did power estimation to check my statistically significant correlation coefficient. I set minimum valuable correlation coefficient (from the practical point of view) equal 0.15. The power for \( r=0.15 \) was 0.56. My maximum observed \( r \) was 0.37 and the power of significant test for this value was 0.78. I added one sentence in the fourth paragraph of the results and mentioned the maximum power of my test.
3. Correction for multiple tests: I completely agree with Dr. Curran-Everett. In fact, the p-values had been corrected in the paper using Bonferroni method; however, I had not explained the correction method in previous version of the paper. Now, I explained that the p-values were corrected using Bonferroni method in the footnote of Table1.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Converting Figure 1 to a table: I converted Figure 1 and you can find its data in table 3. Moreover, I added an additional column to the table and wrote p-values.