Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Loss of International Medical Experiences: Knowledge, Skills, and Attitudes at Risk

**Version:** 4  **Date:** 31 August 2007

**Reviewer:** Thuy Bui

Reviewer’s report:

**General**
The revised manuscript is much better and I commended the authors for their efforts. I still think that there are couples points to be addressed. I also suggest that the background section is organized with titles for each sub-section to improve readings and clarity.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1. There are additional references that can be incorporated for completeness:
   - Niemantsverdriet in Med Educ 2004, a qualitative study into learning outcomes from international traineeships
   - Ramsey AH. Fam Med 2004. Career influence of an international health experience during med school
   - Drain PK. Academic Medicine 2007. Global health in medical education...

2. the authors should try to address under issues/challenges/harms? whether IMs take away from learning/acquiring the (basic) critical skills/knowledge required of a standard residency training curriculum. In a time where we have limitation in work hours and ambulatory care training is taken back seat to inpatient exposure in a 3 year peds/med/FM residency, it can be quite challenging to make sure that time in IMs do not compromise their training. I guess I'm speaking more from the U. of Pittsburgh perspective where we give our global health residents 4 months total overseas in their 3 years in addition to classroom time in public health policy.

3. Under the residency program director perspective, I would add something to the efforts that organizations such as GHEC are doing to improve IMs? (they are actually surveing all the residency programs about IMs, would be nice to present their findings here or in another publication)
Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

I would organize the benefits of IMs followed by barriers/challenges or vice versa. Paragraph 2 under Background goes more with last paragraph on page 5 and first paragraph page 6. I would give titles for each paragraph about benefits of IMs to correlate with table 1-Diseases, skills, poverty/underserved populations, cultural competency, comparative health systems/health policy and ambassadorial roles (could elaborate more on the last one)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

In the second paragraph on page 5, I don't think you need to repeat the line: International medical electives can be valuable to the education of today’s global physician.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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. TB