Author's response to reviews

Title: 'It gives you an understanding you can't get from any book'. The relationship between medical students' and doctors’ personal illness experiences and their performance: a qualitative and quantitative study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
31st October 2007

Dear Dr da-Silva,

RE: 2058021596131369 - 'It gives you an understanding you can't get from any book'. The relationship between medical students' and doctors' personal illness experiences and their performance: a qualitative and quantitative study

We are pleased to hear from you that BMC Medical Education has accepted the above manuscript in principle.

Please find below a description of the formatting changes made to the manuscript, as requested. Your requests are in italics, and our responses are indented.

Ethics/Consent: Please include a statement in the Methods section of the manuscript, including the name of the ethics committee which gave approval for the study, with a reference number where appropriate. Please also document informed consent obtained and what form it took, i.e. whether written or verbal.

An Ethical Approval sub-section has been added to the Methods section, which gives details of the ethics committees which approved the various parts of the study, with reference numbers. Details of the informed consent provided by participants is also described.

-Acknowledgements. Please include an Acknowledgements section between the Authors’ contributions section and Reference list. Please acknowledge anyone who contributed towards the study by making substantial contributions to conception, design, acquisition
of data, or analysis and interpretation of data, or who was involved in drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content, but who does not meet the criteria for authorship. Please also include their source(s) of funding. Please also acknowledge anyone who contributed materials essential for the study. Authors should obtain permission to acknowledge from all those mentioned in the Acknowledgements.

An acknowledgements section has been added before the References section, and one person has been acknowledged, with his consent, and details of his funding described.

Please list the source(s) of funding for the study, for each author, and for the manuscript preparation in the acknowledgements section. Authors must describe the role of the funding body, if any, in study design; in the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data; in the writing of the manuscript; and in the decision to submit the manuscript for publication.

A Funding section has been added before the Acknowledgements section, which includes all requested details.

We would also request that you go through the manuscript formatting checklist one more time and ensure that your revised manuscript conforms to all of the points. The link to the formatting checklist is provided at http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/ifora/medicine_journals.

This has been done.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,
Katherine Woolf, Judith Cave, Chris McManus and Jane Dacre.