Reviewer's report

Title: Assessment of an Undergraduate Psychiatry Course in an African Setting

Version: 2 Date: 26 March 2008

Reviewer: Adamson Muula

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Assessment of an undergraduate psychiatry course in an African setting
Authors: Benjamin J Baig et al
Reviewer: Adamson S. Muula

General comment
Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be part of the process of reviewing this manuscript. I am impressed with the changes the authors have been able to accommodate since I last read the manuscript. I believe now this manuscript may be accepted if the editor so decides. I recommend the manuscript for publication and I believe I do not need to see the manuscript again as these changes are minor.

Minor changes
I have two small changes I still suggest but could be taken or not, depending on the editor’s decision.

1. This is with regard to the authors’ report of ethical review in Malawi. I am satisfy with the path that the authors took in seeking review and exemption from College of Medicine Research Ethics Committee’s Chairperson, Dr Eric Borgstein. He has authority to make the decision that was taken. However, I doubt that he needs to be specifically mentioned within the text. I would suggest something like, but not necessarily the same wording: “The study was exempted from full ethical review by the College of Medicine Research and Ethics Committee (COMREC) as this or it was review of ongoing program.” This I believe is adequate as Dr Borgstein was functioning as the relevant authority to grant such exemptions.

2. In paragraph three of the Discussion section, there is an 8, following the first sentence that is hanging. is this a reference?

Formatting
Also note that the authors have used different reference styles. I believe the formatting section of the journal will catch these little errors but correcting the formatting issues now facilitates rapid publication. Also note that in many areas, the references within text are inserted after a punctuation mark. BMC journals reference is like this [1]. And not like this. [1] And…

Also the referencing is like this:
References

And not like any of the following formats:
1. Broadhead RL and Muula AS Creating a medical school for Malawi: problems and achievements BMJ 2002;325;384-387

Not as:
1. Broadhead RL and Muula AS Creating a medical school for Malawi: problems and achievements BMJ 2002;325;384-387

Not as:

Please note the positions of the year of publication, colon, coma, and no semi-colon in the correct version.

Thank you. Adamson Muula

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