Reviewer's report

**Title:** The influence of the cultural climate of the training environment on physicians' self-perception of competence and preparedness for practice.

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 20 May 2008

**Reviewer:** linda casebeer

**Reviewer's report:**

The questions addressed by this paper of the influence of the cultural climate of the training environment on physician perceptions of competence are important issues that have not been fully addressed. The survey methods are appropriate and the data is sound. Limitations of the study are addressed. The discussion includes how the results fit with other studies.

**Minor Essential Revisions:**

1. For those who are not from Europe, SpR needs to be explained once, in how it fits within the continuum of medical training and related to how it is described in other countries, i.e. SpR training is similar to residency (or fellowship) training in the U.S....there may be other terms used in other countries. This would facilitate readers relating what is presented to either residency or fellowship training for example in their countries. Table 4 is missing a part of a statement that makes it difficult to determine what is meant by this data.

2. The conclusions drawn in the first sentence of that section of the abstract need to address the issue that it is the perceptions that training was adequate, not simply that the training was adequate; data from the study does not support this statement.

**Discretionary Revisions:**

1. The term "objectify" may have a different meaning in different cultures, but here it might better be expressed as "to objectively determine" or "to objectively measure."

2. Table 1 of survey items could better be placed in an appendix since it is not a table of results, but the instrument used to gather data.

3. The use of a sample of comments is somewhat awkward in that it includes some and not others. It would be useful to make a table of comments, or of select comments.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable
**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interests.