Author’s response to reviews

Title: The need for national medical licensing examination in Saudi Arabia

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
November 18, 2008

Dear Editor,

Re: Formatting Changes of “The need for national medical licensing examination in Saudi Arabia” (MS: 4714605152119598)

We would like to thank you and the reviewers for the time and efforts spent on reviewing this manuscript. We appreciate your acceptance of the manuscript for publication.

Please find attached the updated version with formatted changes of our manuscript titled “The need for national medical licensing examination in Saudi Arabia”.

Please find below a point-by-point response to the concerns raised. The requested formatting changes are in Italic Bold font. Our reply is in unformatted font.

First: Content Changes:
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1. Title page: The sentence “Deanship of Higher Education Development, Vice Dean of the Parallel Program for Medicine,” was deleted.
2. Page 6: The phrase “the annual tuition fees are around $15,000 US.” was changed to “the average annual tuition fee is around $15,000 US.”
3. Page 7: The phrase “focused mainly on” was changed to “focused mainly at”.
4. Page 12: Figure 4 was changed to Figure 3.
5. Page 13: The phrase “within the last year” was changed to “during the last year”.
6. Page 16: The phrase “every graduate have” was changed to “every graduate has”.
7. Page 18: Figure 3 was changed to Figure 4.
8. Page 20: The letter “a” was added before “mandatory” so the phrase reads “First, we want to establish a mandatory test”
9. Page 21: The word “defiantly” was deleted.
10. Page 27: The word “Yes,” was changed to “Yet.”.
11. Page 31: The third author name in reference 24 was changed from “Van d, V” to “Van der Vleuten C”
12. Page 32: The third author name in reference 31 was changed from “de CA” to “de Champlain A”
13. Page 34: The order of figures 3 & 4 was changed according to appearance in the text. This has been changed in the uploaded images as well.

Second: Formatting changes requested
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Major Revisions
Title page “Please include a title page in the manuscript file. This should contain; Title, Author list, Affiliations, E-mail addresses.
Changes made.

Authors’ contributions - Please place the Authors’ contributions section towards the end of the manuscript text, directly preceding the Acknowledgements.
Changes made.

Authors’ contributions- please ensure this is formatted into a paragraph rather than a list or in bullet points.
Changes made.

Abstract - Abstracts must be structured into Background, Methods, Results, Conclusions. Please remember to also update the Abstract details on the submission page.
Since our manuscript is a debate, we have structured the abstract into Background, Discussion and Conclusions following the formats of previously published debates in BMC Medical Education.

Table vertical elements - Please note that we are unable to display vertical rules within the tables nor are we able to write text vertically within the cells - please re-layout your table without these vertical elements. We are unable to correctly display merged cells where the merged cell crosses rows.
Changes made. Vertical rules were deleted.

Table shading “We are unable to display shading and colours within the tables. Can we therefore ask you to use another method of highlighting the shaded text e.g. by making it bold.
Shading deleted.

Manuscript sections - Manuscript sections should include (in the following order): Abstract; Background; Methods; Results; Discussion; Conclusions; Abbreviations (if any); Competing interests; Authors’ contributions; Acknowledgements; References; Figure legends (if any); Tables (if any); Description of Additional files (if any).
Since our manuscript is a debate, we omitted the Methods and Results sections. We followed this order: Abstract, Background, Discussion, Conclusions, Competing interests, Authors’ contributions, Acknowledgements, References, Figure legends, and Tables. We followed the same order of previous debates published in BMC Medical Education. There were no Methods or Results sections in them.

Figure Legend - Please move figure legend from figure files to main manuscript, after reference section.
Changes made.

Minor Revisions
**Qualifications** - Please remove the authors' qualifications (e.g. PhD / MD) from the manuscript and submissions system
Changes made.

**Email address** - please include email addresses for all the authors on the title page. Please use the following format:

GSF: g.s.feder@qmul.ac.uk
HS: hsohal@yahoo.co.uk
SE: s.eldridge@qmul.ac.uk
Changes made.

**Figure cropping** - It is important for the final layout of the manuscript that the figures are cropped as closely as possible to minimise white space around the image. Our online figure guide contains full details for preparing files for submission and can be viewed here: [http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/ifora/figures](http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/ifora/figures)
Changes made.

Best Regards,

Sohail Bajammal, MBChB, MSc, FRCS(C)
On behalf of the co-authors.