Reviewer's report

Title: Changes in medical course curricula in Brazil encouraged by the curriculum changes incentive program (PROMED)

Version: 5 Date: 27 September 2008

Reviewer: LuAnn Wilkerson

Reviewer's report:

This qualitative study of the curricular change process in Brazil stimulated by the Brazilian Ministries of Health and Education through the PROMED program is a useful addition to the medical education literature on the topic of educational reform. Using indepth interviews with the coordinators of the curricular in 19 universities, the authors identify themes common to studies in Europe and North America.

Discretionary Revisions

1. This version of the paper has corrected most of the English language problems. A few sentences continue to remain obscure and there are several grammatical errors; however, the themes are clearly described and supported with direct quotations from interviewees.

2. The analytic methodology is sound but participants are not well described. A description of the subjects would be useful to the reader in determining how generalizable the findings are to his or her own institution.

3. I did not see any quantitative aspect to the methodology so would suggest removing this descriptor from the fourth paragraph.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. I would recommend minor revisions to the conclusion section. There is nothing in the findings to support the conclusion that an evaluation program is “needed.” While this is certainly an understandable and laudable goal, it is a recommendation that does not appear to follow from what is reported. If you choose to keep this recommendation, then link it more clearly to your limitations and challenges.

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.