**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Developing Postgraduate Education for Chinese Medicine Practitioners: a Hong Kong perspective

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 28 November 2008

**Reviewer:** Nicola Robinson

**Reviewer's report:**

This is a well written article which addresses an important area around post graduate training for Chinese medicine practitioners. It will be looked at with interest in other countries where CPD is becoming a necessary component of registration and any specialist training. The quotes chosen from the focus groups are appropriate and the methodology appears fairly sound.

Minor essential revisions

1. Some typological errors, a few examples are abstract page 2 first paragraph Instead, the private TCM sector is expected to PLAY a major role, page 6 Despite prior rhetoric ABOUT IN TCM development Page 7 VIEWS ON GRADUATES'VIEWS
   Perhaps a look through the full text to pick up some of the other anomalies is important

2. The paper would benefit having a separate conclusion/way forward/recommendations/implications/shared learning etc, it currently just has in summary which follows on from the last part of the discussion and is rather weak as it stands

3. The interesting section on practitioner and patient communication is not picked up in the discussion and this is a fascinating aspect as in western CAM research studies and training, it is exactly the opposite and criticisms being levied that this is the non specific placebo effect operating and not the treatment, because of the increased time with the patient. Perhaps this would be a good aspect to bring out in the discussion, particularly since one of the authors Stewart Mercer has researched in the area of empathy

**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 have no competing interests