Reviewer’s report

Title: A survey of trainee specialists experiences at the University of Cape Town (UCT): Impacts of race and gender

Version: 1 Date: 17 February 2009

Reviewer: Audrey Chapman

Reviewer’s report:

The article has several discretionary revisions:

(1) The text uses the term black respondents in the abstract and background without explaining which groups it encompasses. The explanation would better be moved up from the methods section to earlier in the article.

(2) the paragraph in the discussion about the insider-outsider dynamic in the results section about the white respondents has a typo. I think the authors meant for the last phrase to be "who were from Cape Town" and not "who were not from Cape Town."

(3) It would be helpful for the text to make some mention of the extent to which the sample of respondents in the survey is representative when discussing the response rate under results. The text does not address this topic until

(4) The wording about experiencing discrimination is a bit confusing. It appears to refer to both experiences of personal discrimination and just observing discrimination to others. It would be helpful to clarify how the question was asked or whether there were two separate questions. Also at points in the text, for example the discussion about white respondents, it should be clarified if there were two questions, to which they were responding.

(5) The sentence in the results which indicates the limitations of the small sample size would better be in the methods.

(6) If there are comparable data from other South African medical institutions, it would be interesting to mention them.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.