Reviewer's report

Title: Investigating the barriers to teaching family physicians' and specialists' collaboration in the training environment: a qualitative study

Version: 1 Date: 14 April 2009

Reviewer: T.Y. Wong

Reviewer's report:

(1) Abstract

General comments: I had to read the abstract 2 times before I got a sense of your study. Perhaps you might reconsider rewriting parts of it to make things clearer?

For example:

(1) "Collaboration between colleagues from the same profession is often taken for granted." could be changed to "Collaborations between physicians in different specialties is often taken for granted"

(2) "The objective of this study was to explore how teaching generalist-specialist collaboration was approached in a sample of four faculties of medicine in Canada."

- this sentence is unclear. A rewording of the sentences should improve its clarity.

(3)"Objectives related to generalist-specialist collaboration lacked specificity." - I am not sure what this sentence means.

(4) Both trainees and trainers reported "growing distances" between specialty and general medicine in three key fields of the professional system: the workplace arena, the training setting, and the production of academic knowledge - suggest "increasing distances"

Methodology

Agree with the methodolgy. I only have 1 question: Why was radiology chosen as a speciality?

Discussion

(1) I agree that the strength of the study was applying a theoretical framework but am not so sure if the same reasons apply to non-Western countries due to the differences in training Family Physicians and specialists. Nevertheless, this study lays the groundwork for improving collaboration between this 2 very important groups of healthcare professionals.
All comments are: Minor Essential Revisions.

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

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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.