Reviewer's report

Title: A comparison of course-related stressors in undergraduate problem-based learning (PBL) versus non-PBL medical programmes

Version: 3 Date: 12 February 2009

Reviewer: Sadia Malick

Reviewer's report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?  
   Yes

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?  
   Yes

3. Are the data sound?  
   I am unable to comment on the statistical soundness as not fully equipped to do so.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?  
   Yes

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?  
   Yes

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?  
   Yes they have been very thorough in explaining this which then highlights the weakness of the study. The conclusions are based on only 2 university and there is high probability of actually not picking up the response of the actually stressed students.

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?  
   No. They have however recommended what more needs to be done

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?  
   Yes

9. Is the writing acceptable?  
   Yes
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'