Reviewer's report

Title: Life Context of Pharmacological Academic Performance Enhancement among University Students - a Qualitative Approach

Version: 1 Date: 20 November 2013

Reviewer: Peter Bart Reiner

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary revision:
I know that it is ‘allowed’, but I found the repeated quantitative citation of the number of observations of each remark in a paper using qualitative methods to detract from the richness of the results. Reporting that 4 individuals said “X” while 7 individuals said “Y” is not really meaningful, and certainly the authors do not make claims that remark “Y” made by the 7 are more relevant than remark “X” made by the 4. Indeed, the authors are clear in their disclaimer at the end of that the results cannot be generalized. I know that adding numerical precision in qualitative results is allowed, but I think it should only be used when it adds to the veracity of the results; in this case it does not. I would be happy to hear arguments that suggest otherwise, but unless the authors can provide them, I suggest they remove the quantitative and allow this qualitative study to rest on its own merits.

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’