Reviewer’s report

Title: Medical informatics in an undergraduate curriculum: A qualitative study

Authors:

David L Buckeridge (david.buckeridge@stanford.edu)
Vivek Goel (vivek.goel@utoronto.ca)

Version: 1 Date: 24 Jun 2002

Reviewer: Prof Jochen Moehr

Level of interest: A paper of considerable general medical or scientific interest

Advice on publication: Accept after discretionary revisions

This is a very clear well structured and informative paper.

Discretionary Revisions:

1) I am not sure why the authors chose not to reveal the institution in which they conducted their investigation. It is very likely that it was the University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine. Making that clear would in my view enable the reader to assess somewhat the claim that the results are representative of North American Medical Faculties in General. This statement is otherwise unsubstantiated.

2) I am in general very much in agreement with the authors’ interpretation of their findings of obstacles and incentives to incorporation of MI education in the undergraduate Medical Curriculum, and with the recommendations they derive for ameliorating the situation. One recommendation in particular seems to me to be worth emphasising: The inclusion of MI content in existing medical curricular offerings. This allows to cover the MI core meaningfully and beyond the mere familiarization of students with a limited set of informatics applications. In fact this route was pursued for some time in Europe, namely since the seventies. References to related papers might enforce this point and point to a very practical solution:

CL Tuinstra: Integration of Medical Informatics with Other Courses in the Medical Curriculum. Meth. Inform. Med. 28 (1989) 243-245


A number of other papers are included in the same special issue of Meth. Inform. Med. that might provide useful models.

3) The authors consistently use “Medical informatics”. I would tend to either use initial capital letters for both words or for neither.
Competing interests:

None declared.