Reviewer’s report

Title: Not All Coping Strategies are Created Equal: A Two-Staged Mixed Methods Study of Physicians’ Self Reported Coping Strategies

Version: 1 Date: 22 March 2010

Reviewer: Tulin Tunc

Reviewer’s report:

1. The paper is well-written in general however in the background some additional information is needed.
2. The authors referred to Canadian health system in their comments in regards to their sample population. It would be nice to know some background information about their sample organizations: Did they include university referral centers? Were they located in a rural area? Was there a shortage of stuff? Were the physicians full time or part time office based etc.
3. It is not clear how the authors correlated the coping strategies with burnout. Burnout is not a unique entity and have three dimensions: emotional exhaustion, depersonalization, and lack of personal accomplishment. What is the relationship between the coping strategies and three dimensions of burnout?
4. It is not clear how the authors graded the burnout level? It is important in judging the level of burnout in relation with these coping strategies.
5. The authors should include the validity and test-retest reliability of the survey instrument that they used.
6. There is no information on the impact of demographic characteristics on coping strategies and burnout. Was there any significant correlation with any demographic data and burnout or coping strategies?
7. With these additions I believe this paper would be a nice contribution to the current literature.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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