Author's response to reviews

Title: The Generation and Gender Shifts in Medicine: An Exploratory Survey of Internal Medicine Physicians

Authors:

Emily Jovic (ejovic@uwo.ca)
Jean E Wallace (iwallace@ucalgary.ca)
Jane Lemaire (lemaire@ucalgary.ca)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
**Response to Reviewers’ Minor Essential Revisions**

**Gunilla Risberg’s Comments and our Responses**

Check references in text  
**Response:** This has been done.

Results, page 8: this paragraph refers to the results of other papers and should be in the discussion section.  
**Response:** The part of the paragraph that refers to other research has been moved to page 10 of the discussion section.

Discussion, page 10: authors discuss results not presented in the results section (e.g., women more likely to work part time than men) – if their study showed this they should show the results.  
**Response:** This section has been revised and clarified.

Why does becoming a mother, but not a father, make having a balanced career and family more difficult for women than men?  
**Response:** A paragraph has been added to explain this in greater detail.

I find the first sentence of the conclusion section hard to understand.  
**Response:** this sentence has been revised.

**Elisabeth Gjerberg’s Comments and our Responses**

Background section, last part of second paragraph, would prefer the sentences be framed more like questions or hypotheses.  
**Response:** They have been reframed as questions.

In the fourth paragraph, end of third sentence, add several European countries (with references).  
**Response:** this has been done.

Last sentence of same paragraph a bit oversimplifying or misrepresentative of the literature.  
**Response:** This has been expanded and presented in a more detailed and accurate way.

Table 1: still think it gives no meaning to use percentages with decimals in this table.  
**Response:** The percentages are maintained so that Tables 1 and 2 may be more easily compared in terms of the characteristics of the interview sample and the questionnaire sample. The decimals have been removed from the percentages in both tables.

Change the questionnaire title to the “the survey” and in the first sentence, change 275 surveys to 275 questionnaires.  
**Response:** The term “survey” can involve the use of either interviews or questionnaires. For this reason the subheading is not being changed to “survey” but being kept as “questionnaire”. The reference to 275 surveys has been changed to 275 questionnaires.

Coding the values 1 and 0 doesn’t necessarily generate more meaningful results but makes them easier to analyze.  
**Response:** We have revised this sentence so it refers to making the results more easily interpretable.

Results, 5th paragraph, using references from the literature makes it confusing as to whether the results are from the study or the literature.  
**Response:** This paragraph has been moved to the discussion section.

Discussion: 3rd sentence seems a bit inconsistent with the results presented on page 7 (second paragraph).  
**Response:** We do not see the inconsistency across these two sections.
Ponder or consider the high degree of similarity between the generations in spite of what they believed. **Response:** We added a sentence to the discussion that suggests that perhaps the similarities in the generations may reflect the extensive professional socialization that physicians receive throughout their medical training that promotes the internalization of the same core work values and behaviors associated with practicing medicine, regardless of which generation they belong to.