Reviewer's report

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

Version: 4 Date: 28 March 2006

Reviewer: Gunilla Risberg

Reviewer's report:

General
The authors have considered and commented on my previous suggestions and made revisions according to them. In the new version of the manuscript the most important changes are a new discussion part and many new references. I have a few minor essential revisions on these parts

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

The authors should check their reference numbers in the text. I find at least two places where the "old" numbers are not changed when new references have been added. (Page 3: What was referred to as [9] = Flynn is still referred to as [9] = Southard, and page 4: What was earlier referred to as [10] = Kennedy is still referred to as [10] = Flynn.)

In the result section, page 8, a new paragraph has been added where the authors refer results from other papers. The result section should be restricted to own results. Comparisons and references to other researchers should be presented in the discussion.

In the discussion, page 10, the authors still discuss results that are not presented in the result section. If their study showed that women are more likely than men to work part-time this fact should be presented in the table(s) or in the text in the result section.

When I asked the authors to elaborate more on the results which suggest that family responsibilities seem to be an issue mainly for women - also in the younger generation - I had hoped for a discussion from a gender perspective problematizing why becoming a mother - but not a father? - can make combining a balanced life with a satisfying career very difficult. And why mothers and not fathers strive to "have it all". I still miss that kind of discussion.

I find the first sentence in the conclusion section hard to understand. I miss two words: ..... investigate both the OLD AND new generation....

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

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