Reviewer’s report

Title: Career-Success Scale - a new instrument to assess young physicians’ academic career steps

Version: 1 Date: 23 April 2008

Reviewer: Molly Carnes

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Major Compulsory Revisions: Career “success” is clearly being viewed singularly as academic advancement since all the items in the CSS relate to research productivity. This is a very androcentric view of success since far fewer women physicians in the cohort actually aspired to a career in academic medicine. While society may view achievement in academic medicine as greater career success, if one’s own view of success is to be an excellent clinician rather than a researcher or administrator, achievement of that goal is success. Success in clinical or hospital practice might also be considered a career. Thus, the rubric and assumptions underlying the CSS need to be re-thought and re-worded. I would suggest being more specific with the intent of the scale – that is, a tool to measure factors associated with success in an academic career. The authors do acknowledge this as a limitation on page 9, but it seems that the definition of success should be narrower up front.

Minor Essential Revisions: The results note that factor analysis of the 7 items found that one factor explained 50% of the variance. For those of us not intimately familiar with interpreting factors analysis from the tables, please include in the text and somehow highlight in the table which factor explains 50% of the variance.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.