Reviewer's report

Title: Consumption of alcohol, nicotine and illegal substances among physicians and medical students in Brandenburg and Saxony (Germany)

Version: 1 Date: 21 August 2009

Reviewer: Erica Frank

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Needs to be very carefully edited for English. Some attention should also be paid to having appropriate content in each section (e.g. they have some methods on binging definitions in the results). It is both scientifically and grammatically sloppy, for example: “No statistical difference related to the different academic years has been found in the group of medical students” and “However, participation in the study was voluntarily and anonymously. This results likely in a reduced response bias, but it remains unclear, whether non-responding was associated with higher or lower consumption of the alcohol, cigarettes and illegal substances.” Tables are also difficult, and figures seem better as tables.

They ignore a large non-European literature on this. They could start with:

On the health of U.S. docs vs. the general population:


On the health of U.S. medical students vs. the general population:


On the health of Canadian docs vs. the general population:


On the reason why this study matters (the relationship between physician and patient health)


They got a 42% response rate from one mailing to physicians? Seems unlikely.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests