Reviewer’s report

Title: Social and psychological factors affecting eating habits among university students in a Malaysian medical school: a cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 5 June 2012

Reviewer: Bianca Lobo

Reviewer’s report:

Ganasegeran et al studied social and psychological factors affecting eating habits among university students in a Malaysian medical school. Although this is an issue that is being widely studied nowadays, it can still contribute in the field, especially if the discussion is improved.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Methodology, page 5 / study setting and population, last sentence: Please, place the number of the approval of ethics Comitte.

2. Results, page 6 / Socio-demographic Characteristics, first sentence: “One hundred and thirty two out of 140 students...”. Please, clarify the population number studied in the methodology section. It is a bit confuse.

3. Conclusion, Page 12 / first sentence: I cannot understand why you concluded that most students studied hold unhealthy eating habits. You’ve shown considerably good results in terms of healthy eating habits when compared to other studies cited in your paper. Please, clarify your conclusion.

4. Conclusion, Page 12 / last sentence: Please, clarify what would be a representative sample size.

5. Discussion: The issue studied has been widely discussed nowadays. It is desirable that you add to the discussion how your study may help to improve the eating habits of Malaysian/Asiatics students and even how it can be used by the Asian population, as well as populations of other nations.

Minor essential revisions

1. Results, Table 6: this table shall be reorganized; information displayed is quite cluttered.
Discretionary Revisions

1. Background, page 4, second paragraph: Improve the first sentence. It can begin with: “In 2011, ...”.

2. Statistical analysis, page 6 / penultimate line: Remove the capital letter from the Word “Psychological”.

3. Discussion, page 10, first paragraph: Improve the penultimate sentence. It would be desirable not to begin with the name of the author of papers.

4. Discussion, page 11, 2º paragraph: please, rewrite the sentence, it is confusing.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.