Reviewer's report

Title: Experiences of leadership in health care in sub-Saharan Africa: a qualitative study

Version: 1 Date: 2 October 2011

Reviewer: Mary O’Neil

Reviewer’s report:

The question posed by the authors in this article is clear, and their method of qualitative research well defined. I also think the findings are well articulated, balanced and supported by examples, quotes, etc. I also agree with their conclusion that insights from this study could be useful in informing, designing and implementing effective efforts to develop health systems leadership capacity in the region.

While I agree with their statement in the beginning, which is also part of their premise, i.e., that “less research has been done on leadership in low-income settings” (than in the context of high income settings) I would like to suggest that they review some of the articles on leadership development undertaken my MSH, in partnership with Ministries of Health in many countries around the world, and also Africa. I am including two links here to those pieces, one of which was published by your journal.

I would suggest that, if after reading these pieces, the authors feel their piece can be enriched by adding a reference, that they do so, as a ‘Discretionary Revisions’. In fact, the qualitative findings documented in this article may be nicely complemented by the quantitative findings in these two pieces.

http://www.msh.org/global-presence/lms.cfm a fact sheet

http://www.human-resources-health.com/content/8/1/1: HRH Journal Article on Scaling up Leadership in Egypt

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

none declared