Reviewer's report

Title: Training for Heath Services and Systems Research in Sub-Saharan Africa - A Case Study at Four East and Southern African Universities

Version: 1 Date: 6 October 2013

Reviewer: Steinar Hunskaar

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting study which concerns training and research in health services and health system analyses in Sub-Saharan Africa. The questions posed by the authors are well defined and the methods appropriate and well described.

The data are from 4 different universities in 4 different countries. This limited sample may impose bias of the results and limit generalization, but the authors have discussed this in the paper.

The manuscript is well written and adheres to the standards for reporting and data deposition in this kind of research.

The discussion and conclusions are balanced and adequately supported by the data.

Major Compulsory Revisions (which the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
- None

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
- Misspelling in Title: Health
- There were 48 responses to the surveys. How many were approached? Response rate should be given
- The manuscript should be revised for the use of capitalizing each word in tables etc. Use sentence style.
- Table 1: Number of trainees should be given by country
- Table 1: Sentence style for field of study
- Table 2: Sentence style. Use the word Number instead of #. The * is not found in table
- Table 4: Country should be given behind university name.
- Table 4: There are only 3 universities given. All 4 must be reported
- Figure 1 should be redesigned into a column chart with one column for each year. Number may be given on top.
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:
I declare that I have no competing interests