Reviewer's report

Title: Scaling up family medicine training in Gezira, Sudan; A 2-year in-service master program using modern information and communication technology: an observational study

Version: 2 Date: 27 December 2013

Reviewer: Michael Schriver

Reviewer's report:

It was a pleasure to read this new version of the article. Thank you for having responded appropriately to comments made.

A few further discretionary revisions after reading this fine version:

P 2: "Use of modern information and communication technology is used to facilitate…" Comment: Use is there twice.

P 9: "The questionnaire data were collected after that each student had started the program, and for the last ones this meant several weeks into the first term." Comment: It seems the word "that" may be deleted.

P 14: "A few centers had available X-ray and/or ultrasound room and major operation room because of sharing facilities with small local village public "hospitals"." Comment: consider to move the word "public" before "local".

P 17: "Such studies emphasizes". Comment: Emphasize(s), remove the s.

P 18: "Objective" checking the competence evaluation of 207 candidates regarding how they perform 46 different clinical skills is not obtainable in a running training enterprise". Comment: When you say "is not obtainable in a running training enterprise", it seems to speak against some training enterprises that actually do this. One may reasonably argue that assessing the level of required competencies among students is an inherent responsibility of any clinical training program. Some family medicine programs use OSCE-tests to do that, which is an objective approach to evaluating clinical skills (example: http://www.cfpc.ca/SOOs/). My suggestion - which you may feel free to ignore - would be to write: "(Continuous?) objective assessment of candidates' performance level of 46 clinical skills was not within the resource scope of our programme". If this is true, then it also fits well under this heading about weaknesses. Another suggestion could be to leave out the sentence. Or, if you disagree, you might leave it unchanged, in which case I would suggest to not put the word objective in quotations.

Again, thank you for well-written revisions.
**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'