Reviewer's report

Title: The global pharmacy workforce: a systematic review of the literature

Version: 1 Date: 14 March 2009

Reviewer: Gregory Duncan

Reviewer's report:

This paper addresses an issue of genuine concern in pharmacy as a profession on a global basis and provides a useful comprehensive baseline for workforce issues and development for future research. The paper is well reasoned, lucid and comprehensive. The body of the paper itself is succinct and identifies all key issues elicited from the literature for this topic.

- Major Compulsory Revisions
  None

- Minor Essential Revisions
  None

- Discretionary Revisions
  1. In terms of revision, one discretionary revision might be some discussion around the relatively low level of evidence and the reliance on surveys to provide the evidence framework for this topic. I would be interested in the authors opinions on some potential (hopefully prospective and comparative) observational methodologies for certain aspects such as graduate trends, job satisfaction and the impact of pharmacy technicians.
  2. Table 1 is a very useful, well constructed and described summary of all the literature individually but makes for a very large paper for any journal. Again as a discretionary consideration, is there another way to provide the key data from this table that would reduce the size of the paper. Perhaps some of the key findings could be presented more succinctly to reduce the overall size?

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. Greg Duncan