Author's response to reviews

Title: Addressing gaps in surgical skills training using low cost simulation at the Muhimbili University in Tanzania

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Letter to the HRH Online Journal Editor

Dear Editor,

This manuscript is being resubmitted for consideration after having integrated the original reviewers comments. We have integrated the comments of the reviewers as follows:

Reviewer #1: The title is too long

We have changed the title from:
- Addressing gaps in surgical skills training: experience piloting a surgical skills curriculum using low cost simulation at the Muhimbili University, Tanzania

to
- Addressing gaps in surgical skills training using low cost simulation at the Muhimbili University in Tanzania

Reviewer #2: Describe whether the faculty were blinded or not and provide an argument comparing the influence of the 2 day course on performance improvements versus other alternative explanations for this increase such as rater bias, effect of repeat test ect…

- We address this point in the methods and discuss the possible other causes for improved performance in the discussion section in the training effectiveness section.

Describe why you did not use a comparison group
- We provide an explanation for this in the methods section

For tables 4-5, provide results of statistical analysis including matched paired t-tests and measures of effect size
- We have included these analyses in table 4
- We have removed table 5 as the data was not felt to provide major contributions to the overall discussion

Lastly,
Dr. Mbemmbati and Dr. Taché has equally contributed to the article and would like to share the first authorship. We are uncertain whether your journal allows for shared first authorship but feel this adequately represents our efforts for this manuscript. Thank you for considering our manuscript E.56: Surgical Skills Study at MUHAS for publication in your online journal.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Taché