Reviewer’s report

Title: The course of specialization in public health in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 1926 to 2006: lessons and challenges

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Reviewer: Claudia Jurberg

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Comments of the manuscript The course of specialization in public health in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 1926 to 2006: lessons and challenges, by Monireh Obbadi

The title of the manuscript reflected the subject of the paper. The abstract shows in a well form the contents of the study. The paper describes a specific theme: the launched of the course of specialization in public health in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, along these 80 years. It is the oldest course in public health in Brazil. This study is new because the author looks to discovery the history of the course by an analysis of documents. It is a historical paper. There aren't details of methods, because it is a historical case of study.

The Introduction of the paper contextualized the study and gives to readers some interests details of a historical period in public health with the creation of the first specialized course of public health in Brazil and explain some important aspects of the international and national politics of public health. Mainly in Brazil, during the implantation of Brazil’s National System of Health (in Portuguese, Sistema Único de Saúde - SUS) that attempt around 90 percent of the 190 million of inhabitants. The SUS has an important role in Brazil. In 1988, Brazilian constitution guaranteed health as a citizens’ right and which requires the state to provide universal and equal access to health services. Then, it is important the description of a course with this goal. In its retrospect, the paper describes what were the transformations in this course during the last 80 years. I only suggest to the author to describe in page 8, second paragraph, a little more about the importance of the Prof. Antonio Sérgio da Silva Arouca and his group in the process of transformation the Brazilian System of Public Health. For her, may be is clear, but for others readers abroad probably they don’t know who was Silva Arouca.

This paper shows, in summary, the maturation of the course of specialization on public health in a country that went through several transformations and how this course followed this process of social and economic development. With the simple recommendation that I wrote, this manuscript could be published in Human Resources for Health.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely
related research interests

**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