Reviewer's report

Title: Leadership, Institution Building and Pay-Back of Health Systems Research in Mexico

Version: 2 Date: 4 December 2008

Reviewer number: 1

Reviewer's report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined?
   This article is a historical review and personal reflection by the author of a process that Mexico went through its three phases of health reforms and the role health systems research played in the development.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work?
   Yes they are, and since it is a historical reflection, it is so stated. Of course if the task was to be taken by a professional historian, the methods could be different. Probably the author could have stated that he used key publications and probably some interviews. However, it is to be noted that no official publications from the Mexican Government were consulted.

3. Are the data sound and well controlled?
   The data presented in this article is historical, being a Mexican and having been part of the process in some instances, I can say the data presented is accurate.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
   Being a personal and historical reflection it is well presented.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
   Yes they are.

6. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
   Yes it does

7. Is the writing acceptable?
   Yes

Discretionary Revisions

If the author wishes, he could review official documents that are related to the historical vision he is presenting, and link it to the detailed paper he is presenting.
This will give the paper a link to the official action taken by the Ministry of Health during the three phases of Reform.

**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.