Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 21 July 2009

Reviewer: Luis Durán

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Major Compulsory Revisions

First, It is necessary to explain why they consider the reforms (1st, second and third), real reforms. The third in particular is just a financing program that was not fully implemented and that has suffered strong criticism in Mexico.

Second, It is necessary to consider what are the views of the critics of Seguro Popular.

Third, it is necessary to provide evidence of the author claim that research was involved in a process that was since the second reform of Dr. Soberón a political process. It is important to distinguish between legitimacy and causality of the relationship between research and health policies in Mexico.

Fourth, It is necessary to present a more complete overview of the political situation that favored the so called second and third reforms. The experience is richer in this regard and more illustrative of the reality in the health care system policy field. What was the role of authors like Alain Einthoven?; what was the role of the World Bank?. What was the role of early translators of these ideas like Dr. Londoño y Dr. Frenk?. Who supported and who was against this political program?. What was really the final shape of the financing program after the political discussion in the Mexican congress in 2004?.

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