Author’s response to reviews

Title: Supply, distribution and characteristics of International Medical Graduates in Family Medicine in the United States: a cross-sectional study

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear dr Tovah Honor Aronin,

Thank you for the opportunity to revise our paper. Please find below a point-by-point response. We hope our paper is now ready for publication.

Kind regards on behalf of all authors,

Robbert Duvivier MD PhD MBA

Editor Comments:

1) In the abstract, rename Purpose to Background.
   - Done.

2) Move the list of abbreviations to after the Conclusion section.
   - Done.
3) Rename Introduction to Background.
- Done.

4) Please do not include shading or colour in tables. This is outlined in our Submission Guidelines (https://bmcfampract.biomedcentral.com/submission-guidelines/preparing-your-manuscript#preparing+tables).
- Done.

5) Please state in the Declarations (“Ethics approval and consent to participate”) that all necessary permissions were obtained for each database to access and use the data and who gave this permission.
- Added: All necessary permissions were obtained to use the databases included in this study. Inclusion in either data set is done with consent of the individuals involved, in the case of AMA as part of their member application process, and in the case of ECFMG as part of the application for certification. In this application, the candidate must agree to allow their data to be used for research, or their record is not included in any analysis.

Reviewer reports:

Larry A. Green, M. D. (Reviewer 1):
Improved manuscript; thank you for resubmitting. Very nice paper.

Minor points for your consideration:

1. Why not put "in 2017" into purpose in abstract? Maybe instead of "current data" page 7, line26?
- added: ‘the most current publicly available data, i.e. 2017.’
- added: on p7/line26: ‘the most current publicly available

2. Introduction--? "practising" vs "practicing."
- changed to ‘practicing’.

3. Introduction--the longstanding misalignment of residency positions and US graduating medical students is a substantial excess of residency positions. Maybe you want to use this language because of the reference; maybe you could just say what the misalignment has been?
- added: “resulting in an excess of GME positions” for further clarification of the ‘misalginment’.

4. Page 15, line29--maybe specify what you mean here by "our cohort?"
- changed: to “dataset”

5. Table 1 title: why not add to title that this workforce includes family medicine residents? Maybe
tables 4 and 5 also?--- when it is true/correct?

- response: all tables include residents so we decided not to make the titles longer than necessary.

Reviewer 2 (Reviewer 3): REVISION ASSESSMENT FROM THE ACADEMIC PEER REVIEWER:

Has the author addressed your concerns sufficiently for you to now recommend the work as a technically sound contribution? Yes

Reviewer comments: There have been substantial revisions to the comments from 3 reviewers and I think the paper is now ready to publish.

- No response required.