Reviewer’s report

Title: Impact of an educational workshop on psychiatrists’ attitude towards psychosomatic medicine

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Reviewer: Peter Henningsen

Reviewer's report:

This is a short paper about an interesting format for educating specialists in a neighboring medical field, psychiatry, about the specifics of the own specialty, psychosomatic medicine - with the goal of changing knowledge and attitudes about the other speciality. The study uses a simple survey format to describe, without a control group, the pre-post changes in attitudes and knowledge in a group of young psychiatrists from different European countries after they took part in a 90 min workshop which conveyed knowledge about Psychosomatic Medicine.

The idea behind the paper and the application in the project are interesting, the workshop format seems to be successful and the paper is well written. However, there are several problems with the paper that need to be addressed:

- The paper does not give the number of participants in the workshop. If the number is very low, the generalizability of the results probably would be too limited.

- The backgrounds of the participants should be described in more detail (country, type of psychiatric institution etc) - in particular it is important to know how many participants are from Germany as Psychosomatic Medicine has a very special tradition in this country (see Zipfel et al. Psychother Psychosom 2016). Opinions of German psychiatrists can hardly be grouped, without discussion, with opinions of psychiatrists from countries where Psychosomatic Medicine does not exist as a separate specialty.

- The fact that this group of psychiatrists uniformly seems to be interested in and has expertise in psychotherapy of one sort or another is astonishing and should be explained.

- The introduction describes only one tradition of Psychosomatic Medicine, the integrated bio-psycho-social one. It does not refer at all to the other, historically even more important root with its psychogenetic models of applying psychoanalysis to medicine. This is unfortunate because it is the psychogenetic tradition which is identified by many until today with Psychosomatic Medicine and it is this tradition which informs many clichés and resistance against it.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
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Not relevant to this manuscript

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