Author’s response to reviews

Title: Role models in a preventive program for hand eczema among healthcare workers: a qualitative exploration of their main tasks and associated barriers and facilitators.

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
To: The editor of BMC Public Health

Regarding: Manuscript submission

Amsterdam, December 10th, 2014

Dear editor,

Herewith I would like to submit our manuscript titled: ‘Role models in a preventive program for hand eczema among healthcare workers: a qualitative exploration of their main tasks and associated barriers and facilitators.’ as an original study to BMC Public Health.

This manuscript describes the first qualitative study which investigates both how role models in healthcare perceive their role as well as which barriers and facilitators they encounter while performing their role. This is important information, as role models are often integrated in intervention studies in healthcare, but are rarely asked about their experiences with their function. The role models were part of a multifaceted implementation strategy to implement a guideline to prevent hand eczema among healthcare workers. Interesting findings were that support or resistance of their colleagues could respectively facilitate or hamper the performing of their role. Whether the role of the role model suited the participant was also an important barrier and facilitator for the performing of the role.

The manuscript should be considered for publication in BMC Public Health as the main goal of the role models was to prevent illness, namely hand eczema, and this is in line with the scope of BMC Public Health. In addition, the manuscript is in line with the special focus of the journal on occupational correlates with health and disease, as the role models function within an occupational context of the healthcare setting.

This paper contains original material, is not submitted, in press or published elsewhere in any form. The study protocol was approved by the Medical Ethics Committee of the VU University Medical Center. Each author has contributed significantly to this piece of work and agreed to this submission. None of the authors has any conflict of interest regarding the paper.
All authors agreed to the submission to BMC Public Health. The manuscript is not currently under submission in any other journal.

We hope you are willing to consider this manuscript for publication and we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely, on behalf of all authors,

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