Reviewer’s report

Title: Productivity in medical education research: an examination of countries of origin

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Reviewer: Tahir Pillay

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General comments:
This is an interesting publication which examines which countries produce the most publications on medical education. An earlier study from 2000 also examined the geographical origins of such publications but only looked at two journals and found that the USA and Canada were the highest producers.

This current study finds that, in general, evaluative studies in medical education are produced mainly by USA, Canada and the UK but when this is adjusted for the numbers of medical schools per country, Canada, Netherlands and the UK were the top 3 countries.

Discretionary revisions
Whilst I would have preferred to have these incorporated into the manuscript, I have classed this as discretionary revisions as it may entail extensive further work and therefore delay the publication of these interesting findings.

1) It would be useful to determine what a search of an alternative database such as Scopus would reveal and whether the numbers would be similar.

The indexing in Pubmed is likely to be slightly different from Scopus and may potentially produce different results

2) An additional aspect would be to examine the numbers of non-evaluative studies, as well as the geographical origins of these and whether the numbers would differ from the numbers in the current study.

3) It may be useful to look at developing countries only in a separate subset. Many of these have medical schools and medical education research is not financially demanding as other types of research. The only developing country featured in the list is Brazil.

4) More extensive discussion on the phenomenon of Western medical schools driving medical education curriculum reform which is being copied by the rest of the world where the conditions are vastly different.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
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.