Reviewer's report

Title: The sense of coherence and styles of success in the medical career: a longitudinal study

Version: 2 Date: 2 April 2014

Reviewer: Don Munro

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions: The paper suffers from both poor organisation of the ideas, especially in the Methods section, and poor writing, leading to many confusing and in some cases unintelligible sentences. It should be rewritten to present the ideas more coherently and clearly.

Some specific points (not an exhaustive list):

Background
lines 3-4 confusing
line 7 which "specific model"?

pp 3-4 these are not "predictors of success" but variables that were measured

p 8 bottom - give a description of the SOC29
p9 collapse the list to save space (or summarise, e.g., as 11 aspects of medicine)
p10 reference and explain the Cantril method
p10 Statistical analysis - not clear what the first sentence means
p10 2nd para line 4 - 'that' not 'who' (x2)
line 6-7 - "cross checking with the sense of coherence" not clear
lines 8-9 not clear
p11 top - not at all clear. The method of linear interpolation is not clearly explained or justified, and throws doubt on the validity of the results

Results - need to be described in text (reference to the tables is not sufficient)
Discussion and Conclusion - need to be more systematic and focussed

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

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.
Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests