Author's response to reviews

Title: Psychological distress and academic self-perception among international medical students: the role of peer social support

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Version: 5 Date: 6 November 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Prof. Ulep

We are pleased to have had the opportunity to revise our article for consideration to BMC Medical Education: “Psychological distress and academic self-perception among international medical students: the role of peer social support”, authored by Yukari Yamada, Miloslav Klugar, Katerina Ivanova, and Ivana Oborna (MS: 1846665767129466). We have addressed all the editorial comments as indicated below.

Editor's comment:

1) See in particular the first passage of the discussion, which should state the major findings:
   a) Page 11, line 1. If there is a "negative" association between distress and poor academic self-perception, this means that increased distress is associated with less poor (or improved) academic self-perception!!!!? This is not what is found in the referred literature...
      
      **Response:** We have changed the sentence into “We found a high rate of psychological distress among the students and a strong association with poor academic self-perception, which is fairly consistent with previous studies in other settings” (page 10 line 20).

   b) Page 11 lines 3 to 4: This sentence is really awkward: If you mean that "there was an interaction-effect between low support and distress on poor academic self-perception" then write just this. It seems like your wording preclude the main message!!
      
      **Response:** We have addressed this as suggested (page 11 line 2).

2) Table 3 is not very clear, since the abbreviations MSPSS-FRI and MSBWI have not been described in the foot notes (all tables should be self-explaining), if one looks only at "psychological distress" in your tables there is not a significant effect (p=0.064)

   **Response:** We have added the foot notes to indicate the abbreviations of MSPSS-FRI and MSBWI in table 3 as suggested. Although the association with the dichotomized psychological distress was only marginal, given the significant association with the continuous variable (MSBWI), we believe it is not an overstatement that psychological distress is associated with poor academic self-perception.
3) Minor essential: Please substitute $p = 0.000$ with $p < 0.001$, page p, line 15 and table 2.

**Response:** We have addressed this as suggested (page 9 line 13, table 2)

We used a professional language editing service (Edanz) as recommended to improve the style of written English, and submit, herewith, a revised version of our paper. We hope that the revised version of our paper is now suitable for publication and we look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely

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