Reviewer's report

Title: The mediating role of resilience in the relationship between stress and life satisfaction among Chinese medical students: a cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 2 November 2014

Reviewer: Michael Cohn

Reviewer's report:

This is a useful and straightforward piece of research. If the authors are correct that this is the first major survey of stress and life satisfaction among Chinese medical students, then the descriptive results are potentially as important as their finding about the mediating role of resilience.

Recommendation 1 (major): As with all studies, I strongly recommend that the authors be asked to declare whether:

1) These measures were the only ones given
2) Their hypothesis about the mediating role of resilience was stated a priori
3) They had any other a priori hypotheses that were tested in this dataset.

Recommendation 2 (major): The authors suggest that medical students should practice and receive training in skills to increase resilience. This rests on the assumption that resilience, as measured by the Wagnild & Young scale, is a set of skills that can be learned. They should cite any evidence of training programs that have successfully increased resilience. It would also be helpful for them to review any evidence that resilience changes over time and is not a stable personality trait.

Recommendation 3 (minor): The authors note the correlations among their variables, including demographic variables. However, due to the very large size of their dataset, even correlations with no practical importance may achieve significance. They should note the effect size of all reported correlations, and limit their interpretation of correlations with very small magnitudes.

Recommendation 4 (discretionary): As I mentioned, the descriptive results from this study may be valuable on their own. The authors speculate as to the causes of some of the differences they found; they may want to note other research that they would recommend based on these issues.

Recommendation 5 (discretionary): The authors correctly note that validating a causal relationship among the variables they measured would require longitudinal data. If the data gathered for this study permit, have they considered planning followups with these participants?

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

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests