Reviewer’s report

Title: Evaluation of a Biomedical Informatics Course for Medical Students: A Pre-Posttest Study at UNAM Faculty of Medicine in Mexico.

Version: 1 Date: 16 December 2014

Reviewer: Alvaro Margolis

Reviewer’s report:

The article is of interest in the field of biomedical informatics education, and is well-written and thoroughly referenced. In general terms, I would recommend to put this evaluation research more into context, as described below.

- Minor Essential Revisions

- In Background, since the importance of the discipline in the medical curriculum is closely linked to the Country’s current and future needs, please expand about the Mexican context regarding - for example - the electronic health record and telemedicine adoption, and what teaching the discipline would add.

- In Background, please note that the IMIA recommendations on BMI education in health professionals’ careers is intended at the level of users, as opposed to the graduate training in the field, seeking for experts. In this context, please expand on what can be obtained through formal BMI education at the user level, as opposed to daily use of computer tools by young medical students.

- In Methods, Setting. Even though the design of the course has been published elsewhere, there needs to be a minimal description of the program (e.g., topics addressed, methodology used in the context of large audiences, why so early in the career, and so on).

- In Methods, last paragraph of "Main outcomes and instrumentation": please explain if the anonymous survey was implemented through the online platform, and how was it made anonymous.

- In Discussion, consider discussing the pros and cons of teaching this set of knowledge and skills early in the medical career, rather than later and in an integrated fashion with the clinical disciplines.

- In Discussion, consider analyzing the fact that the satisfaction survey may have been biased, since the survey seems to have been implemented through the same online platform where students took the course. Therefore, fear of expressing criticisms may have been present. This may also explain the fact of having such a high response rate in a voluntary satisfaction survey.

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

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

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'