Reviewer's report

Title: Developing undergraduate education in palliative medicine from optional to mandatory: the German experience from four consecutive bi-annual surveys

Version: 2 Date: 1 June 2015

Reviewer: Philip Larkin

Reviewer's report:

1. Major compulsory revisions
   Overall, the paper is sound and well-described. However, the concept of 'adequate' teaching is referred to and it is not clear what this means. Ideally, one would seek 'optimal' education in palliative care. I think that the authors need to review this wording and perhaps clarify a little more the expectation of compulsory education (is this now 16 weeks?) in the German system. A slight revision here would be helpful

2. Minor essential revisions
   The paper is relatively well written in English but here and there, I feel it needs an edit in terms of expression in English and the use of language to express ideas. For example, line 244 refers 'tribute to medical students' I do not know what that means. A review by a native English speaker would sort this very quickly

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

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