Reviewer’s report

Title: An interactive, multi-modal Anatomy workshop improves academic performance in the health sciences: a cohort study

Version: 0 Date: 20 Sep 2015

Reviewer: Virpi Sulosaari

Reviewer’s report:

Dear authors,

Thank you for introducing this interesting paper on study evaluating effectiveness of interactive teaching and learning method. Topic of the paper is contemporary and in interests of global readers from different fields of health science and medical education. In general, the manuscript has been done well. However, I have some minor suggestions for revision of the manuscript.

1. Keywords: I recommend you to consider adding one more keyword: health sciences education or education.

2. In page 4, line 12: Could you describe what you mean by the concept of wet laboratories?

3. Methods chapter: I recommend you to provide more information on how the actual intervention was developed before you report the pilot study phase. For example, how was the content of workshop created and the methods chosen?

4. The study design: I wonder how did you choose the instruments used in this study (e.g. VARK)? The description of the examination (MSE/ESE) is missing. It would be good to give readers some information of the content (in correspondence with the workshop aspects). I also would like you to consider adding more discussion on the validity and reliability of the instruments used (in the limitation chapter).

5. Workshop procedures: How did you organize the workshop, was all the students (n=66) at the same time participating on different activities? I also wonder, why did you decide to let the students choose what aspects of workshop they participated? Was there some aspects of workshop which was more in interest of the students? I ask because in nursing education we have evidence that some of the students evaluate their competence higher than it actually is when tested.

6. Results: Students approaches to learning was part of the background demographic data. I wonder was there any possibilities to analyse the relationship of preferred learning approach and the ESE results?

7. Discussion and Conclusion: As an educator myself, I miss some discussion of the feasibility of the workshop as a teaching and learning method. All around the world, it seems we are facing similar challenges, and we are looking efficient and also cost-effective methods to teach this new generation of health sciences students.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?  
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?  
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?  
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?  
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English  
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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