Reviewer’s report

Title: Predicting medical students who will have difficulty during clinical training

Version: 1 Date: 08 Oct 2016

Reviewer: Diann Eley

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this manuscript which has previously undergone review and contains edits and modifications in line with reviewer comments. I enjoyed reading this paper. It is well written and clear throughout. It also presents interesting and important information pertaining to student progression in medical school training. The methods are appropriate for the research question and the findings contribute to what is a common problem for medical educators. Any information that will help predict the students who may struggle, has the potential to provide an early warning system so that at risk students might be given assistance before their progression suffers. The findings also contribute to what we know about the various student entry groups who often and eventually struggle. These findings therefore might be applied to a modification of selection criteria, or might suggest an early screening of potential problem students to help them overcome obvious difficulties before they matriculate. The identification of understanding the context of the patient i.e. local culture/language is important and could be improved and perhaps even tested prior to commencing the degree.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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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