Reviewer’s report

Title: Facilitators of high-quality teaching in medical school: Findings from a nation-wide survey among clinical teachers

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Reviewer: Hubertus JERSMANN

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Facilitators of high-quality teaching in medical school: Findings from a nation-wide survey among clinical teachers

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This is interesting work focusing on clinicians at teachers. The sample size is large (833) with 9 Medical Schools participating, giving credibility to the conclusions. The authors should be congratulated on developing the questionnaire.

The results are likely to be applicable to other jurisdictions other than Germany, that the clinician/researcher/teachers are time poor, want to be upskilled but have not got the time to do so.

The work also reveals that not only medical students want feedback constantly: clinical teacher want that, too!

The second conclusion that junior teachers find teaching less easy is not surprising: the others have done it before and often.

In the discussion on page 13 the authors would do well being a little more constructive and suggest solutions:

For example, a way to combat the situation uncovered by the work is to involve medics in teaching early and skill them up when still undergraduates. Another strategy to support junior doctors with their teaching are especially created roles of "medical education registrars", who not only receive specific training to teach, but can take a large part of the workload of organizing teaching etc off the junior doctors and also support them with peer review. With respect to the lack of recognition the introduction of annual teaching prizes and awards serve to elevate the prestige and satisfaction of teachers.

The authors have done well to lay bare old dilemmas:

- The love of teaching versus a given load of clinical service
The lack of remuneration for going the extra mile

- The lack of academic recognition for being a hard working teacher

Given the current economic climate No 2 is likely to remain a dream, but our Universities would do well to improve on No 3!

This well designed work can be used to labor that point with Health authorities as well as the academic institutions.

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

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