Reviewer's report

Title: Perceived Medical School stress of undergraduate medical students predicts academic performance. An observational study

Version: 0 Date: 16 Apr 2017

Reviewer: Harlina Halizah Siraj

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1. This study attempted to explore the relationship between perceived medical student's stress scores and academic performances using a purely quantitative approach. With a large sample size of 456 students, the findings might be credible enough. However it is more appropriate to indicate that an additional qualitative approach should be applied to explore the actual links and relationship between the stress score and academic performance of medical students. In-depth interviews of the two extreme groups: high achievers and poor performers could provide some insights into the subject matter. It is quite improper to come to such a strong conclusion and generalization of the relationship between age and gender with academic performance simply based on a quantitative study.

2. Can the PMSS scores of the medical students be further analysed according to the possible stressors of workload, competition, social isolation and financial worries? This can provide some insights as to which stressor is more dominant during this stage of medical education.

3. Current trend in studying the impact of stress to student's achievement is to measure their resilience or ability to bounce back. It would be good to include some comments on the resilient factor as one of the important confounders.

4. About 14 references cited are from more than five years ago. Appreciate if newer references are included.
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?
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I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
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