Reviewer’s report

Title: The UK Medical Education Database (UKMED) What is it? Why and how might you use it?

Version: 0 Date: 27 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Morris Gordon

Reviewer’s report:

I was interested to read the title, as this is an initiative that interests me for my own research.

Given the nature of the paper as a none research piece, there is little to critique in the content. However, I do have two broad but important suggestions.

Firstly, I feel the paper is far too long and UK centred. Whilst this is a UK initiative, this is not a UK focussed journal and I think giving consideration of similar international initiatives, the different approaches in other systems with mixed public / private undergrad funding (as UK is about to become) and finally not assuming knowledge of the UK system even amongst UK teachers is key. I think this means re-ordering some elements of the introduction and whilst the abbreviations are at the end, I think for the first citation these must be in the text, given the sheer volume of abbreviations. Much material can be removed without hurting the message and this will enhance readability.

Secondly and linked to this first point, the writing is a little unusual. Many of the statements, particular in the early paragraphs, are articulated in an inelegant and clumsy manner. This doesn't help the papers message. Examples include:

'Medical education all around the world is important and extremely expensive in financial as well as human terms' - perhaps 'Medicine is a cornerstone of higher education globally, with high financial cost and academic resource requirements' I think is what is being said?

Indeed, lack of this was bemoaned by the 2014 UK Research Excellence Framework Education Panel ' - 'Lack of such UK wide studies was identified as a weakness in the fields scholarly output by the 2014 UK REF' I think is clearer

These are merely selections and I think many sentences can be lost, but I hope I have clarified the sorts of issues and think these changes will significantly enhance a very interesting paper.

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