**Author’s response to reviews**

**Title:** Factors deterring dentistry, medical, pharmacy, and social science undergraduates from pursuing nursing as a healthcare career: A cross-sectional study in an Asian university

**Authors:**

Ling Ting Wu (nurwlt@nus.edu.sg)

Wenru Wang (wenru_wang@nuhs.edu.sg)

Eleanor Holroyd (eleanor.holroyd@aut.ac.nz)

Violeta Lopez (nurvl@nus.edu.sg)

Sok Ying Liaw (nurliaw@nus.edu.sg)

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 07 Dec 2017

**Author’s response to reviews:**

Dear Professor Kerry Wilbur,

Thank you so much for your letter on 30 November 2017 regarding Manuscript MEED-D-17-00366 entitled "Factors deterring dentistry, medical, pharmacy, and social science undergraduates from pursuing nursing as a healthcare career: A cross-sectional study in an Asian university"

We are grateful for the comments and suggestions of the reviewer. I have worked with my co-authors and revised the original manuscript as recommended by the reviewers. Below I have listed each actionable reviewer comment along with our response and location of change within the manuscript. All significant additions and alterations have been included in red font, both in this document as well as the manuscript itself.

The grant funding to support the article-processing charge will be due in December 2017. We would like to request the journal to expedite the reviewing process.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this revised manuscript for consideration of publication in BMC Medical Education.
Best wishes,

Liaw Sok Ying on behalf of all manuscript authors.

Editor Comments:

Dear Authors,

Thank you for your revisions to the manuscript. I believe you have largely addressed all of the reviewers comments and concerns.

I do have some outstanding recommendations before final approval. I realize that you are on a tight timeline for preserved funding (I noticed your comment about "December" in your response). Your next revision will not go back out to the reviewers, so we should be able to make the final recommendation as soon as I have your response.

BACKGROUND:

Unfortunately, your elaboration on nursing's position in health care and workforce needs is not as well written as other parts of your manuscript. As the opening paragraph, it is really important to grab your reader's attention in a clear way.

Do you meant that nurses face the greatest workforce demand WORLDWIDE? If so, please add that to sentence 1.

Yes, this sentence has been added to the 1st sentence in the background section to ensure emphasis (Page 3).

You have no reference for the statement that nurses are "known leaders in aging care". This claim is thus far unsubstantiated and could be contested by members of other professions who are also in these settings (community, acute hospital care etc...). Is there something unique you could add here related to the nurses scope of practice specifically?

Citation for the statement that nurses are ‘known as the leaders in aging care’ has been added in page 3. Another sentence is also added to relate nurses’ unique scope of practice to substantiate the statement that ‘nurses are leaders’ (page 3).
When you identify that "healthcare courses" continue to increase, what do you mean? Do you mean programs training other professionals?

Yes healthcare courses refer to programs that train different healthcare professionals. Examples were added in page 3, paragraph 2 to make this clearer.

page 4 (lines 54-55). What do you mean by "career motivators" to join nursing? What are some examples?

Career motivators refer to factors that motivate one to join the career. Examples were added in page 5 to make this clearer.

DISCUSSION

page 12 (lines 46-47). I must insist that you take out any inflammatory language related to sexual orientation. While there may be particular social norms and acceptable vocabulary in Singapore, your work is for a worldwide audience and the term "gay", "effeminate" are offensive. As I recommended before, please change to something like, "male nurses remain a minority among the nursing population worldwide, and in some countries are perceived to be negatively associated with a particular sexual orientation".

I understand your concern and have changed the sentence in page 12 as recommended.