Reviewer's report

Title: A searchable database of medical education objectives - creating a comparable gold standard

Version: 1 Date: 18 Dec 2017

Reviewer: Sami Shaban

Reviewer's report:

I have four main points to discuss, the last one being the major one:

1. Minor point: The use of the bin and binnable is an old database term and for this this paper it's probably better to use category and categorize. This is really up to the authors though.

2. I'm not sure why there is a focus in the paper on the first two years as the authors go beyond the basic sciences and add clinical disciplines into the database such as Internal Medicine.

3. The issues that Reviewer 1 has raised have been addressed.

4. The issues that Reviewer 2 has raised are more fundamental and conceptual and have mostly been addressed but I agree with this reviewer's concerns and believe the paper needs a bit more. Hope these points will help in clarifying what I think your actions and response should be to reviewer 2's comments (there are three main points to be addressed, 12, 13 and 15):

12. "How is your work relevant to medical educators outside the US?" It seems you responded by adding google translation capability to the website. While interesting and beneficial to non-English speaking medical educators, I don't think this was the intention of the reviewer. Rather, medical education is fundamentally different in the US compared to outside the US. It's a graduate program in the US and an undergraduate program outside the US. So, the discipline objectives would be very different especially for the first two years.

13. "Cases". Yes, this is addressed in you response to Reviewer1-Q7 but should be expanded. List each case or utility separately and expand on them. Provide some usage counts for each of these cases. I believe this is important and will add value to the paper.

15. This is similar to 12 and you have really not addressed this fully. Look at a few medical school curricula from non-US programs and compare and contrast with US programs in term of
discipline objectives. A statement about how applicable this website is to an international audience would be useful.

Finally, personal advice, the website can be made much better in terms of its functionality and more professional looking. You may need to look for someone to help with you with this. I don't see this as a requirement for accepting the paper for publication.

**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

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