Reviewer's report

Title: A simple and short microbiology practical improves undergraduate nursing students' awareness of bacterial traits and ability to avoid spreading infections

Version: 1 Date: 10 Jun 2018

Reviewer: Silvio Brusaferro

Reviewer's report:

1. The authors used the term "microbiology" many times in the paper: but it is not clear the meaning of this term in each context. Some times it is referred to the discipline, some times it is referred to infection control. In many cases it should be substituted with a clearer and informative expressions.

2. In the section "introduction": sentences between line 79 and 93 contain information not relevant for the paper and the paragraph should be appropriately shortened.

3. Methods: line 110-111 the expressions used for hand hygiene should be more appropriate and coherent with the international literature.;

4. Methods: it should be emphasized that the main difference between the 2 categories of students has been the practical exercise .

5. Results: lines from 180 to 183 do not

6. Tables 2 and 3 : the values of percentages in the Y axis do not need to report 3 digits after comma;

7. Discussion: lines from 195-196 it is not clear the meaning:;

8. Discussion: lines from 234 to 237: on the basis of the provided data this sentence seems too much optimistic : at the moment the paper suggests only that this methods are promising;

9. Bibliography is pertinent but not updated: there are more recent papers which afford the topic.

10. In the section figures titles and legends the notes are really longer tan needed
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.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?
If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal