Author’s response to reviews

Title: Development of a scale to evaluate medical professional identity formation

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Version: 1 Date: 12 Feb 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

Editor Comments:

1) 1. On the title page please include author email addresses.

RESPONSE: I have added my email address to the author information on the title (Page 1, Lines 10).

2) please separate 'Ethical and consent to participate' and 'Consent to publish' declarations into to two separate headings. Please separate the text, which is satisfactory, under the two headings as well.

RESPONSE: I have revised the declaration and separated to two paragraphs of 'Ethical approval and consent to participate ' and ' Consent to publication' (Page 19-20, Lines 411-428).

3) Under the 'Funding’ declaration all sources of funding for the research reported should be declared. The role of the funding body in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript should be declared. If the funding body played no such role, please also state this.

RESPONSE: I have added “The funding body played no role in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.” To ‘Funding’ declaration (Page 20, Line 438-440).
Reviewer 1: Sylvia Cruess

1) Within the limitations section I would suggest that the authors state that the questions were formulated in Japanese and translated. I believe that they are entirely appropriate within the Japanese cultural context but some of the items may not be entirely appropriate in other cultures. This should not interfere with the publication of the paper.

RESPONSE: I have added ‘There is a possibility that some of the items may not be appropriate in other cultures.’ in accordance with your comment (Page 18, Lines 391-392).

Reviewer 2: Ian Wilson

1) My only misgiving is that the process of reducing statements from 51 to 31 is not explained. It would have been powerful to have the face validity of the statements reviewed. While I do not think there is an instrument in use that has validity it would have been nice to have seen some comparisons.

RESPONSE: To clarify the process of reducing items, I have added an explanation of 31 items as follows: 31 generally applicable items covering various perspectives of well-developed professional attributes manifested in professional contexts and daily life, consisting of emotional control (3 items), recognition and persuasion of professional role (4 items), internalization of external values and social requirements (8 items), daily reflection and evaluation (5 items), social inclusion (8 items), and stage transition (3 items), were extracted and rewritten for the DS. (Page 9, Lines 171–178).