Reviewer’s report

Title: How does ‘banter’ influence trainee doctors’ choice of career? A qualitative study

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Reviewer: Balakrishnan (Kichu) Nair

Reviewer's report:

Career choice is an important issue for junior doctors.

This study on 24 foundation year 2 doctors, tried to determine the place of banter in career choice. As medical educators know for a very long time, it is often the hidden curriculum which determines career choice. So further exploration of this issue in this study was worthwhile.

Many people decide to pursue a specialty, after doing a good term/attachment, either as undergraduates or as junior doctors based on positive experience and role models. It is good to see the study found juniors are not passive observers, but they take many other aspects other than banter before selecting a specialty. Not surprisingly, lack of female role models was an issue for some.

General practice is itself a specialty and not a fall back area. Lack of exposure to this field was an issue in many medical curricula.

This is a study done in a single deanery and generalisability is an issue as the authors point out.

I believe the article is bit too long and can be shorted by reducing the lengthy introduction.

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?
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Yes

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
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Not relevant to this manuscript

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