Reviewer’s report

Title: Pharmacology and Therapeutics resource session attendance and academic performance of pre-clerkship medical students in problem-based learning curricula

Version: 0 Date: 10 May 2019

Reviewer: Jianlin Hou

Reviewer’s report:

The relationship between absenteeism and academic performance is worthy of study. Therefore, this study is interesting and the manuscript is well structured. Nevertheless, it may be necessary to substantively revise the manuscript before it is considered for publication. Specific suggestions are as follows:

1) The writing of English should be extensively edited;

2) The Introduction section may be too short. Consider providing more information on exiting studies and contributions of the study, stating the research question(s) and hypotheses. If the third research aim will be kepted, it is necessary to state why it is important to study the relationship between gender and performance. Some contents of the Methods section (e.g. setting, activities) could be moved to the Background section.

3) Consider adopting a multivariate approach (e.g. an OLS model) in the data analysis because correlation coefficient is not sufficient to determine whether one variable is associated with another. In other words, the conclusion drawn are not adequately supported by the data shown.

4) In the Discussion section, avoid repeating research results that should be in the Result section.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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.

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:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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