Reviewer’s report

Title: Publication in a medical student journal predicts short- and long-term academic success: a matched-cohort study

Version: 0 Date: 12 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS: To view the full report from the academic peer reviewer, please see the attached file.

REVIEWER COMMENTS FROM REPORT: The paper has appropriately aligned its aims with the study design, execution and interpretation.

The authors had a well defined inclusion criteria to answer their hypothesis.

The main limitation is that they have confined themselves to a single medical student journal, which is primarily a national journal. Therefore, there is an inherent selection bias.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

The authors need to acknowledge and / or improve the following limitations.

1- Using a single medical student journal, which predominantly caters to students of a single country introduces significant bias to the study. This also limits the generalization of the findings.

2- Most journals do not have comprehensive author biography data, and this may have resulted in missing papers authored by medical students.

3- No data is given about the country / region of the medical student at the time of publication of their paper in the NZMSJ. This may allow the readers to understand the generalizability of the findings.

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.

No

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?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Acceptable

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