Author’s response to reviews

Title: Motives, Experiences and Psychological Strain in Medical Students Engaged in Refugee Care in a Reception Center - A Mixed-Methods Approach

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Author’s response to reviews:

Reviewer 2:

Dear Reviewer 2,

Thank you very much for again reviewing our manuscript. Your advice was very helpful in clarifying an important aspect of the examination.

Comments:

1) I’m afraid I still have some confusion over the information included in Table 5. It is now clear from the introduction and methods the relevance of Bugaj et al study and that the results from this paper are being used as a baseline measure for the results in your paper. However, when
looking at the Table 5 I am still a little confused. What is the reference (Hannover et al., 2004) and data supplies for 'norm sample mean' for the SOC-29, is this comparison data from another study? Could you please clarify?

Thank you for this very important point. In fact, the psychometric results of the Hannöver study (Hannöver et al. 2004) were used as a baseline measurement for the SOC-29 scale. To clarify this issue, we elaborated the corresponding paragraph in the method section (see page 15, line 18 to page 16 line 3):

“Since the above mentioned study by Bugaj et al. (2016) (Bugaj et al., 2016) examined the general stress load of medical students, we used the results of the PHQ-9, GAD-7, SF-12 and RQ-2 questionnaires as a “baseline”-measurement. In regard to the assessment of the Sense of Coherence, we used the psychometric results of the SOC scale in a large representative norm sample as the “baseline”-measurement, which were taken from a study by Hannöver et al. (2004) (Hannöver et al., 2004). By comparing the psychometric results of the present study with the results of the studies conducted by Bugaj et al. and Hannöver et al., we aimed to estimate the extent of context-specific stressors in a reception center for refugees on the psychological burden of medical students. The group comparisons were carried out using Student's t-test for independent samples.”

Editor:

Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for your helpful points. We considered each of your important indications thoroughly.

Comments:

1) Please read and address the final comments provided by Reviewer 2 below.

We adapted the manuscript in accordance to the comments, raised by the Reviewer (see responses to the reviewer above).

2) Please remove the funding information from the Acknowledgements and include it in the Funding section instead. If you have no further acknowledgements please put “Not Applicable” in the Acknowledgements section.
We moved the funding information to the funding section (see page 33, line 8)

“This study was supported by the Ministry of Science, Research and Arts Baden-Württemberg, Germany. Project identification number: D 100011720; AZ42-04 HV.MED (16)27/1. We acknowledge financial support by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg within the funding program Open Access Publishing.”

3) In the Funding section, please also describe the role of the funding body in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.

The information of the role of the funding bodies is now included in the corresponding section (see page 33, line 8).

“The funding bodies were not involved in designing the present study, in collection, analyses and interpretation of data or in writing the manuscript.”

4) Unfortunately the BMC Series does not accept boxes for publication. Please remove the boxes and include the information in a different format. Please note BMC Series does publish endnotes.

We removed the “INFOBOX” and added a new paragraph in the method section, containing the information of the former box (see page 8, line 22 to page 9, line 13)

“Structural aspects of the assignment of the medical students at PHV

Before the students started to work at PHV, they attended an approximately two-hour introductory course on the premises of the University Hospital Heidelberg. The students were given the following information: a) the premises of PHV, b) organizational procedures, c) aspects of flight and forced migration, d) the asylum procedure in Germany, e) frequent physical disorders of refugees, f) mental disorders of refugees, g) intercultural communication. In addition, all participants received a manual which included detailed instructions on how to use the computer software and listed important contact details. The students entered their names in a digital shift plan according to their wishes and availability. The shifts at PHV were organized from Monday to Friday. Every day, there were three consecutive shifts of 3.25 hours each. The first shift began at 8.30 am and the last shift ended at 6 pm. 2-3 students were assigned to an individual shift. The students’ tasks mainly included the admission and forwarding of patients; depending on the capacities, the students also assisted in the doctors’ examination rooms and carried out a basic anamnesis or different diagnostic procedures. The students were then given the opportunity to make their own diagnosis (see Table 1). In order to facilitate communication, students were asked to enter unfinished tasks, new or special features into an online logbook“
5) In your “consent to publish” section, please confirm whether participants gave consent for direct quotes from their interviews to be published in this manuscript.

We included the corresponding information (see page 32, line 18).

“Consent for publication

Participants gave consent for direct quotes from the interviews to be published in the present study.”

6) We note Christoph Nikendei is a member of the editorial board. To ensure transparency, please declare this in the Competing Interests section of the Declarations.

We declared this fact in the Competing interest section (see page 33, line 1)

“Competing interests

CN is a member of the editorial board of BMC Medical Education.”

7) Please remove the cover letter from the file inventory.

We removed the cover letter.

8) Please put your responses to the reviewers'/editors’ comments in the Response to Reviewers box in Editorial Manager. Please do not upload a separate letter. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Additional files should remain uploaded as separate files. Please ensure that all figures, tables and additional/supplementary files are cited within the text.

The responses to the reviewer’s and editor’s comments were returned in the described way. The manuscript was prepared as described above.