Reviewer's report

Title: The Power of Language-Concordant Care: A Call to Action for Medical Schools

Version: 1 Date: 11 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Renata Meuter

Reviewer's report:

Overall I am happy with how the authors have addressed the feedback.

The issue I raised re the need to be 'as competent in their L2 as in their L1' has been addressed to a degree but there is still reference to the need to 'demonstrate true competency in communicating as well in another language as they do in their native language' and 'true concordance'. This is arguing for a standard that is unlikely to be achievable by someone (an adult) acquiring a second language.

For example, while a Latino L1 Spanish speaker, born in the US and having acquired English largely at school, will achieve native-like fluency in English (and still likely be variably dominant in Spanish or English depending on the context (e.g., academic writing)), it is important to consider how likely it is that the reverse will occur. Can we expect that a native-English speaking, monolingual American student enrolling in a medical school with a language curriculum that focuses on Spanish (for example) will emerge as a medical doctor equally fluent in English and Spanish? High fluency can be achieved with full immersion but then there may well be proficiency gaps when practicing in English, the language in which training did not occur. A more reasonable suggestion is that there should be some determination of what an acceptable level of fluency in an L2 should be before a physician can be trusted to practice safely in that language. International Medical Graduates (IMGs) need to demonstrate a certain degree of fluency in the language of their host country to be able to practice and, although various studies report concerns regarding their communication skills (including from the IMGs themselves), the standards applied there could be the recommended minimal standards to achieve in the L2. In my view Lines 231-248 still need a little adjusting. I am happy for the editor to review any additional changes to that section.

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.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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Yes

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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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