Author’s response to reviews

Title: Increased average number of medical publications per interviewee from 2009 to 2018: a study of 100 interviewees to an academic gastroenterology fellowship program

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Author’s response to reviews:

POINT-BY-POINT RESPONSE LETTER for revision-2

October 7, 2019

Dr. Upreet Dhaliwal

Editor,

BMC Medical Education

Dear Dr. Dhaliwal:

RE Manuscript #: MEED-D-19-00416R1 submitted to BMC Medical Education. Current title: “A large and statistically significant increase in mean number of medical publications per interviewee from 2009 to 2018: a study of 100 interviewees to an academic gastroenterology fellowship program” by Zaid Imam, M.B.B.S; and Mitchell S. Cappell, M.D., Ph.D.

Thank you for your careful review and insightful comments on this manuscript. We have thoroughly revised the manuscript in accord with the reviewers’ comments as follows. As an aid in reviewing the revisions we have supplied two versions of the revised paper: a version identified as final for publication and a version identified as having highlighted changes.

Your manuscript "A large and statistically significant increase….to an academic gastroenterology fellowship program" (MEED-D-19-00416R1) has been assessed by our
reviewers. Based on these reports, and my own assessment as Editor, I am pleased to inform you that it is potentially acceptable for publication in BMC Medical Education, once you have carried out some essential revisions suggested by our reviewers.

Reviewer reports: Amir Khan (Reviewer 2): The authors should be complimented for submitting appropriate revisions. However there are some minor changes to be done as given below:

1. Title. Mentioned: "A large and statistically significant increase in mean number of medical publications per interviewee from 2009 to 2018: a study of 100 interviewees to an academic gastroenterology fellowship program" Comment: Title should avoid the phrases: 'A large and statistically significant' AND 'mean number'. These are statistical terms which are not needed in the title.

   CHANGED TO (Title) on p. 1, Top:

   Increased average number of medical publications per interviewee from 2009 to 2018: a study of 100 interviewees to an academic gastroenterology fellowship program

   CHANGED FROM:

   A large and statistically significant increase in mean number of medical publications per interviewee from 2009 to 2018: a study of 100 interviewees to an academic gastroenterology fellowship program

2. Background in Abstract: Mentioned: Gastroenterology fellowship positions are extremely competitive. Comment: This does not justify the objective of the study. Please rewrite.

   CHANGED TO (Abstract [Background]) on p. 2, line 1-2:

   Background: Gastroenterology fellowship candidates may strive to improve their qualifications for this extremely competitive fellowship.

   CHANGED FROM:

   Background: Gastroenterology fellowship positions are extremely competitive.

3. Results. Mentioned: The statistical significance of these time trends (for 2009-2011 versus 2016-2018): across the sample of 100 interviewees was analyzed using non-parametric statistics because the number of abstracts, articles, and publications per interviewee per annum was demonstrated to have nonparametric (non-normal) distributions by direct visual inspection of histograms, of Q-Q plots, and of box plots. Shapiro-Wilk's test also showed a non-normal
distribution (p<0.0001 for normal distribution, individually for abstracts, articles, or publications).

Comment: The following component need not be mentioned in results. It should be mentioned in the Statistics section of methods section: "was analyzed using non-parametric statistics because the number of abstracts, articles, and publications per interviewee per annum was demonstrated to have nonparametric (non-normal) distributions by direct visual inspection of histograms, of Q-Q plots, and of box plots. Shapiro-Wilk's test also showed a non-normal distribution (p<0.0001 for normal distribution, individually for abstracts, articles, or publications)." The abovementioned change in results section is needed at many places.

CHANGED TO (Added to Methods section [Statistical analysis]) on p. 5, Bottom:

Statistical significance of time trends for 2009-2011 versus 2016-2018 across the sample of 100 interviewees was analyzed using non-parametric statistics because the number of abstracts, articles, and publications per interviewee per annum was demonstrated to have nonparametric (non-normal) distributions by direct visual inspection of histograms, of Q-Q plots, and of box plots. Shapiro-Wilk’s test also showed a non-normal distribution (p<0.001, for normal distribution, individually for abstracts, articles, or publications).

CHANGED FROM: (Deleted from Results section) p. 6, near Bottom:

The statistical significance of these time trends (for 2009-2011 versus 2016-2018): across the sample of 100 interviewees was analyzed using non-parametric statistics because the number of abstracts, articles, and publications per interviewee per annum was demonstrated to have nonparametric (non-normal) distributions by direct visual inspection of histograms, of Q-Q plots, and of box plots. Shapiro-Wilk's test also showed a non-normal distribution (p<0.0001 for normal distribution, individually for abstracts, articles, or publications).

I hope I performed all your requested revisions, but I will be pleased to perform any other revisions necessary for publication in this prestigious journal.

Warm regards,

Mitchell S. Cappell, M.D., Ph.D.

Senior author