Reviewer's report

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

Version: 0 Date: 30 Jun 2019

Reviewer: Tat Woon Chao

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I am from Australia so there may be differences in post graduate medical and surgical specialty training requirements from the US.

However, the general trend is similar showing a significant shift towards making research a very heavily weighted requirement in all levels of training.

In the surgical streams, there is now a massive shift towards making strong research backgrounds as a core requirement towards admission into any training program - not just as a requirement whilst in the training program.

Although currently there is a variety of requirements in terms of level of research required to be eligible for training amongst the various surgical subspecialties, I suspect that with time, this bar will only increase - for example, the orthopaedic training program in Australia now will not consider any case reports and publications in journals with an impact factor of less than 1 as eligible for points for application for entry - only a few years ago this wasn't the case.

In the medical streams, research into subspecialty interests is now almost a must in order to be considered for entry into subspecialty training after basic training.

And then the next major requirement is that for most physician consultant appointments in a metropolitan public hospital these days, a completed PhD is often required.
I think this article serves well in documenting this massive shift towards research becoming a core requirement for all fields of medicine and surgery - not just for completing a training program but also being almost mandatory for entry to said programs - a very important consideration for aspiring junior doctors.

**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.

Yes

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I am able to assess the statistics

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