Reviewer’s report

Title: The association between health professionals’ international experience and the academic output of their students in Harbin, China

Version: 0 Date: 01 Oct 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: My overall impression is that the paper is clear and straight to the point. The findings are clearly presented and the discussion is focused and concentrated.

My main point of critique relates to the framing of your research question. When following your line of reasoning, I am missing an answer to the "so what?-question?".

Why is your study relevant for the broader scientific community? Which gap in the literature are you addressing? At this moment, I barely see a gap in the literature besides the observation "this has not been studied before". Complementary, is that the authors do not demonstrate a mastery of their field in their introduction and discussion sections. Too few studies are cited, and too many claims are left unjustified.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

The introduction: rational and broader implications of their study.

In methods: why mentioning a few sentences on HUCM if they are excluded? seems not relevant.

In methods: a bit more information on how the questionnaire was distributed to explain the 100% response rate.

How did you match group B for grade? Which grade? GPA?

Methods: How many cases you did not find a match? I find this information important.

In discussion: First paragraph relates to a different topic/thema. I don't feel it contributes to a clear line of reasoning.
Your recommendation regarding a database could use some more flesh. At present, it seems a bit out of the blue.

Although it is mentioned in the limitation section, I am still left wondering how much in terms of motivation and ambition the two groups are different that might explain (parts of) your results. It could be elaborated a bit more.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:

Some language issues for instance line 16 introduction section.

Use of the word 'the' questionnaire in abstract.

I am wondering whether the wording of the results section could be a bit more descriptive than just an summary of the table/appendix.

**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.

No

**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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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