Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 25 Jun 2019

Reviewer: Marta Van Zanten

Reviewer's report:

The authors of this paper have generally addressed the previous reviewer's comments.

The following are additional suggestions to improve the manuscript.

Methods

Lines 15-16: It is not clear what is meant by "HMU is the Western medical registration authority..." Is HMU an authority that registers physicians for practice in addition to being a university?

Lines 30-35: Provide n's in addition to percentages.

Line 39: The use of the word "graded" is still not clear, as it implies giving the students a grade/mark. I suggest eliminating the word "graded" in this sentence: "PhD students in China are differentiated by their year of enrollment."

Line 50: Does this imply that someone who went abroad for less than 6 months would be considered a "resident"?

It's not clear in the Methods where you collected the information on health professionals.

Third paragraph of the Methods: 100% response rate belongs in the Results section.

Fifth paragraph of the Methods: It's not clear how students chose and advisor. For example, are the variables about the advisor (8, 9, 10 and 11) known to the students when they choose and advisor?

According to lines 51 - 55, the same questionnaire was distributed to the 257 control students of resident professionals. But the questionnaire includes questions for the tutor regarding studying abroad. How did the students complete this section of the questionnaire for the tutors who studied abroad, but less than 6 months? Did they complete this section but the authors classified the tutors as "residents"?
Discussion

A discussion of how international experiences in English language countries versus non-English language countries would impact the results. Also, could some of the health professionals have studied abroad in low-resource environments?

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

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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