Reviewer’s report

**Title:** A self-report of the Healer’s Art by junior doctors: Does the course have a lasting influence on personal experience of humanism, self-nurturing skills and medical counterculture?

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 04 Sep 2019

**Reviewer:** Upreet Dhaliwal

**Reviewer's report:**

This is an interesting study albeit with a small sample size and probably involving some recall bias. Nevertheless, provided the authors do not extrapolate too expansively, there is a need to share results from studies involving the application of humanistic methods in the medical course. In that context, I wish the authors would consider changing the title since impact was self-reported and not actually measured. Similarly, in the main conclusion, the authors state: "The research identified that the HA has a lasting impact on its alumni and the course principles were recalled and applied by junior doctors up to five years following course completion." This ignores all the methodological and other limitations of the study. If we consider the definition of 'impact': a marked effect or influence, then perhaps, an alternative word would align more closely with the actual outcome. That is also, in fact, the reason I feel that the title is misleading. Again: "The HA was shown to positively contribute to ways in which its alumni practice medicine." This also seems to be over-reaching - the 10 participants do not represent the alumni. Then: "The HA was shown to positively contribute to ways in which its alumni practice medicine." Shown to or reported to? The conclusions written in the abstract are closer to the truth and may be expanded to form the conclusion in the main article keeping in mind the limitations of the study. The revisions seem to have introduced some syntax and grammatical errors like duplicated words, hanging sentences etc. Do amend.

**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.

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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