Reviewer’s report

Title: Gender-based differences in letters of recommendation written for ophthalmology residency Applicants

Version: 0 Date: 02 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses a testable research question(s) (brief or other article types: is there a clear objective)?

Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?

No - there are minor issues

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?

No - there are minor issues

STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?

Yes - appropriate statistical analyses have been used in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?

Yes - the author's interpretation is reasonable
OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Is the current version of this work technically sound? If not, can revisions be made to make the work technically sound?

Probably - with minor revisions

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS:

The study was clearly written. The authors explained the research question and findings well. However, the authors put a lot of information in the Discussion section, such as explanation of the measures in LIWC and the importance of letters of recommendation, that should have been in the Methods and Background sections, respectively. Additionally, the article would be strengthened if the authors discussed how bias language in letters of recommendation was measured in previous research in the Background section.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

Design: explain LIWC measures in greater detail in the Methods section. Execution: explain how previous research measured gender bias in the language of letters of recommendation and how you intend to measure bias so that we can judge your findings.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:

N/A

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.

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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Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

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