Author’s response to reviews

Title: Does growing up with a physician influence the ethics of medical students' relationships with the pharmaceutical industry? The cases of the US and Poland.

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Ethics approval

The research received an exempt status from Saint Joseph's University (SJU - 5600 City Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19131-1395) IRB in October 7, 2013.

In 2013 as recipient of a Mobility Plus Fellowship sponsored by Ministry of Higher Education and Science, I was a Visiting Scholar in the Pharmaceutical & Healthcare Marketing Department at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia. This was the period when the research in US was made – all Medical Schools needed the ethics committee approval to let me do the research with their students. In Poland the ethics approval for this type of research was not required, I just get the permission from the Deans of First and Second Medical Faculties at Warsaw Medical University. This is the reason why Saint Joseph’s University IRB was asked to review my research. All the documents can be provided on request.

Consent to participate

All students take part in the research voluntarily. Medical students get the following information:

“Dear Sir or Madam,

My name is dr Marta Makowska. I am a sociologist at Warsaw University of Life Sciences and visiting researcher at Saint Joseph’s University. The questionnaire that you have in front of you serves to examine attitudes of medical students toward pharmaceutical marketing. Answers by US students will be compared with answers by Polish students. In no way is this research associated with pharmaceutical companies.”
There are no right or wrong answers. Your frank replies are very significant for my research. All your responses will be treated as completely confidential. This research will serve only for scientific purposes. All replies will be analyzed and presented only in the form of collective statistical balance sheets at scientific conferences and in articles. If you are interested in the collective results please let me know via e-mail (marta_makowska@sggw.pl) and I will send them to you.

Thank you very much for the help!

Dr Marta Makowska”

The informed consent was not obtained from participants.