Reviewer's report

Title: Knowledge and Attitudes of Physicians toward Research Ethics and scientific Misconduct in Lebanon

Version: 1 Date: 11 Mar 2020

Reviewer: Rebecca Pentz

Reviewer's report:

The authors have done a good job of responding to the reviewers' comments. A few areas need more editing:

Line 113 "To note, the faculties of Medicine in Lebanon are geographically diverse." PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NO ETHNIC DIVERSITY. ARE ALL PARTICIPANTS ARAB?

Line 155 "Then it was done every 2 months to ensure that a sufficient number of participants are enrolled and that they meet eligibility criteria and the targeted ethical goals outlined in the grant proposal. " IF YOU MENTION THE ETHICAL GOALS OF THE GRANT, YOU SHOULD SPECIFY WHAT THOSE GOALS WERE

Line 248 "As outlined, 52% of physicians reported witnessing scientific misconduct at some period of their careers, mainly about disagreement about authorship." AS STATED THIS MISREPRESENTS THE DATA. PLEASE INCLUDE FALSIFICATION AND FABRICATION OF DATA AND PLAGERISM….JUST DON'T CALL THOSE DISAGREEMENTS. THEY ARE STILL MISCONDUCT.

THE CONCLUSION COULD BE MADE CLEARER. AS IS THE STATEMENTS ARE NOT SPECIFIC ENOUGH IN REPORTING THE RESULTS.

"In conclusions, our study demonstrated the impact of research ethics training(SPECIFY THE IMPACT - INCREASED KNOWLEDGE AND RESULTED IN MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDES) on the development of physicians' knowledge and positive attitudes toward research ethics. Results reflected(DEMONSTRATED OR SHOWED) the high rates of research misconduct and scientific misbehavior perceived by our participants where almost half of physicians reported witnessing scientific misconduct at some period of their careers. Significant associations (EXPLAIN THE DIRECTION OF THESE ASSOCIATIONS) were found between the awareness and professional status of physicians, prior research experience, and prior research ethics training. A significant moderate positive correlation was also demonstrated between research ethics knowledge and physicians' attitudes toward practices of research ethics. Our study also shed the light on the importance of reinforcing the function and the role of research ethics committees in establishing institutional and national educational programs in research ethics, in accordance with international effort to enhance research ethics principles knowledge between researchers."
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.

Unable to assess

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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