Reviewer's report

Title: Women doctors and their careers in European university hospitals: what now in the 21st century?

Version: 1 Date: 1 September 2014

Reviewer: László Kalabay

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Major Compulsory Revisions
1. Authors investigate the position of women doctors and their careers in European university hospitals. Their study is, however, conducted in Catalonia, part of Spain. Thus I suggest changing the title with narrowing the scope, e.g. “Women doctors and their careers in Spanish university hospitals”.
2. During the observation period were there institutions or departments closed down or merged that would alter the number of positions available?
3. The trends of women being less promoted in medicine along with feminisation are observed widely. Due to the latter it can be expected that women will be promoted at an increasingly higher ratio in many fields of medicine in the future. The same may be true if costs were cut the number of jobs may also be cut.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Introduction is a bit too long I suggest shortening it.
2. Sentences are too long. Due to this and some language errors correction by a native English speaker is advised.
3. Can culture and traditions affect the degree of male dominance in countries?

Discretionary Revisions
1. The number of children of women may also be important as women in leading positions may have less children than the average in the general population, hospital female doctors with no leading positions (or frequently no children at all). This would be worth to include.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.