Reviewer’s report

Title: Building capacity: A Cross-sectional Evaluation of the U.S. Training Institute for Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health

Version: 0 Date: 11 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Catherine Darker

Reviewer's report:

Dear Authors,

Well done on completing an evaluation of this course. Evaluations of course are often overlooked, especially one which attempts to have a comparative analyses.

Some clear strengths are the efforts made to extrapolate the productivity of graduates in terms of collaborations and research grant activity.

I am struggling to see within the paper how you determined skills development per se? I see how you attempted to measure collaborations and research funding. But I think what you have assessed relates to 'behaviours' of graduates, rather than a direct assessment of 'skills'. Perhaps you could explain and clarify.

Did graduates and UA give their consent for their information to be used this way?

Did any of your graduates come from academic institutions not in the US? I am taken that your assessments of activity post-course comprised of US type funding opportunities, many of which would be restricted to overseas academics/researchers. Also attendance at the US based conference that you examined would have presented as costly for non-US based academics/researchers thus potentially biasing your findings.

What was your definition of 'large grant'? Also an international audience will be unfamiliar with the R01, R18 etc that you provide examples of. Please give some context as to what this would mean?

What were the available response options for the faculty survey data present lines 211-217?

"Dont" and "wasnt" should be typed in full.

The figure has no Title and is blurred, x axis is not labelled properly.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal