Author’s response to reviews

Title: Psychosocial and career outcomes of peer mentorship in medical resident education: A systematic review protocol

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dr. Paul Shekelle
Editor in Chief
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Re: SYSR-D-17-00054R2

Dear Dr. Shekelle,

Thank you for providing us with additional suggestions for revision of our manuscript entitled “Psychosocial and career outcomes of peer mentorship in medical resident education: A systematic review protocol” (SYSR_D_17-00054R2). All comments have been addressed (see
below) and the manuscript revised accordingly. Manuscript changes have been highlighted in yellow in the text.

We hope you find these revisions acceptable and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

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REVIEWER COMMENTS:

Are you sure there is a body of literature meeting these inclusion criteria that is sufficiently large to justify this level of effort? I was struck on reading the introduction by the lack of discussion or citation of any hypothesis-testing study of peer mentoring of medical residents to decrease burnout. Are the authors sure such studies exist? Normally an introduction makes some mention of the prior work on the topic, and discusses and cites results from studies that may be too small individually, or conflicting results from studies, as a justification for a review.
AUTHORS:

Although prior reviews have not evaluated peer mentorship in medical residency education, or specifically addressing the role of peer mentors in reducing burnout, such studies do exist. Since this protocol was first submitted, we have proceeded through the initial stages of this review. Our electronic database searches have identified 312 unique abstracts, 46 of which were selected for further review. A number of these studies are directly relevant to our research question including two that were specifically cited in our July protocol manuscript (SYSR-D-17-00054R2 lines 163-165):


While systematic reviews vary considerably in the number of included studies, we feel confident that there are a sufficient number of relevant studies on peer mentorship in medical residency education to justify the need for this review.

We have revised our manuscript (lines 166-175; 183-185) to explicitly reference this prior work.