Reviewer’s report

Title: Associations between medical students’ beliefs about obesity and clinical counseling proficiency

Version: 0 Date: 15 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Jean Welsh

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you to the authors for their responses to my comments on the first review. I have only a few addition comments:

1. Abstract. Introduction. Line 1. Is it true that "healthcare providers attribute obesity to controllable factors"? The way that this is written suggests that this statement is true for all healthcare providers and that they attribute obesity only to controllable factors and not more to those that are controllable then uncontrollable.

2. Abstract. Lines 39-40. Similar to above, the students weren't asked whether controllable or uncontrollable factors caused obesity they were asked which contributed more, correct?. It's important to reflect in the results that they were being asked about the relative importance of the different types of factors.

3. Lines 61-62. Does the evidence show that the genetics are a "major determining factor in obesity" or an important contributor? A "determining factor" suggests that no matter what a person does, they will be obese if they have the genes for it.

4. Llines 73-74. While it is true that there are important factors outside a person's control that influence one's risk of being obese, evidence for the statement that obesity "results primarily from factors outside an individual's control" is not provided.

5. Lines 282-284. The authors state in the concluding paragraph, "Finally, the lack of education about the physiology of obesity in medical schools contributes to the prevalence of misconceptions about the disease and the prevalence of negative biases among physicians" but this was not a conclusion that can be drawn from this study. This is better presented (with a reference) and discussed in the discussion section. If that is done, then reference to this as a possible solution to the problem identified in this study would be reasonable to include in the conclusion.

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.

Yes

**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

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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