

Reviewer's report

Title: "That Never Would Have Occurred To Me": A Qualitative Study of Medical Students' Views of a Cultural Competence Curriculum

Version: 2 **Date:** 18 April 2006

Reviewer: Brenda Beagan

Reviewer's report:

General

The authors have done an admirable job reconceptualizing the paper, especially the discussion, in response to the reviews. I am completely satisfied with their revised document. Almost all of my feedback is very minor editing issues that may well be caught in a subsequent stage – but since I can't help but notice them I may as well pass them along!

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Nothing

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

p. 3 Background, second sentence has no ending punctuation after ref [4].

p. 7 methods, were the individual interview conducted by telephone also tape recorded?

References 25 (p.7) and 31 through 35 (pp 18 onward) use round rather than square brackets. (As I said, these are minor editing notes!)

p. 9 middle parag second line seemed to be indented strangely, 4th sentence has an extra period.

p. 11 section on Self-awareness, first sentence starts with a period.

p. 12 second line sentence has no ending punctuation after these scientific beliefs”

p. 13 section on Specific recommendations, sentence one should say ‘first two yearS of training’.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

p. 18 last parag, do the authors have any comments to make on the suggestions offered by students? I get a sense of hesitancy here, the authors hiding a bit behind the study participants, rather than telling readers what they themselves think. For example, the idea of a focus on conflict management assumes that patients from possibly-marginalized groups are willing and able to confront physicians and med students to raise a conflict... The idea that patients from minority groups should teach physicians and med students, which is rooted in cultural humility (a great concept), at the same time puts the onus on patients – who are already vulnerable. Many members of racialized minority groups, and sexual orientation minority groups etc have argued long and loud

that it is NOT their job to teach members of dominant groups. You can see that I have a position on this... I do not expect the authors to take my position, but I would like to know what position they take with respect to this, what they think about these suggestions from students. Giving students a kind of un-interpreted voice in the final Discussion is unusual and perhaps slightly evasive...?

p. 15 second line from the bottom, the phrase 'we did not detect reliable differences in students' seems a misfit in a qualitative study. I wondered about 'we did not detect differing response patterns among students' instead.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.