Author's response to reviews

Title: Improving Primary Care in British Columbia, Canada: Evaluation of a Peer-to-Peer Continuing Education Program for Family Physicians

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Dear Editor(s) of *BMC Medical Education*:

Enclosed please find a paper, entitled "**Improving Primary Care in British Columbia: Evaluation of the Peer-to-Peer Continuing Education Program for Family Physicians.**" Please accept this revised paper as a candidate for publication as a research article in *BMC Medical Education*. It is an original article, with all original materials, and has not been published in any journal or other citable form. None of the four authors have any competing interests. The matter of an ethics review has now been addressed in the methods section.

The article describes a new continuing education program for family physicians. Its primary goal is to improve in how physicians conduct various aspects of their practice that lead to quality guidelines-based care, improved patient experience, and increased job satisfaction. The innovative program uses a peer-to-peer training model for teaching new skills (on a number of topic areas that were based on a needs assessment). A dedicated support staff situated across the province facilitate the targeted behaviours changes during “action periods” where the physician-learners practice the new skills in their work environments. The article reports findings from an evaluation survey of the physician-learners that asked for their perceptions of the program’s impact on their work and on their patients. Given the focus of BMC Medical Education on curriculum development, evaluations of performance, and assessment of training needs, we feel the article is a good fit for the journal.

Potential peer reviewers for this manuscript include:

1. Kurt Stange, MD, PHD  
   Professor of Family Medicine, Epidemiology & Biostatistics, Sociology, and Oncology  
   Case Western Reserve University  
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2. Robin Osborn, M.B.A  
   Vice-President and Director of International Program on Health Policy and Innovation  
   Commonwealth Fund  
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3. Brian Hutchison, BA, MD, MSc, CCFP, FCFP  
   Professor Emeritus  
   Department of Family Medicine and Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics  
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None of these experts have published with any of the authors of this manuscript within the past 5 years, are not current collaborators, and are not members of the same institutions as any of the four authors.

Thank you for considering our submission to *BMC Medical Education.*

Sincerely,

Marcus J. Hollander, PhD
President