Dear author(s),

Peer review of your manuscript (above) is now complete and we are delighted to accept the manuscript for publication in JUMMEC.

Before publication, the authors have to check the format of your manuscript, to ensure that it conforms to the standards of the journal. The author should declare for conflict of interests, financial support and informed consent (verbal/written) from all participants/patients involved in their study, and ethics number for all research using human samples and animals. Please return the formatted manuscript within 3 working days.

Thank you.

JUMMEC Admin
on behalf of:
PROF. DR. LAU YEE LING
Editor-in-Chief
Journal of Health and Translational Medicine

On Mon, Aug 3, 2020 at 1:10 PM Usharani Balasingam <usaha@um.edu.my> wrote:

Dear Editor in Chief

Professor Lau Yee Ling,

Re: Manuscript 200103 second revision

Greetings and a good day to you, Prof.

Thank you for the invite for the second revision. We are hopeful that our sincere effort and trust will be rewarded.

Our paper as the title states is on the Ethics, professionalism and legal education in Malaysian undergraduate dentistry: a reflection on the current requirements.

Firstly, we humbly and respectfully will say and assure the reviewer who said that a separate course on professional ethics and law is not required.

This is not the objective of this paper. We are highlighting regulatory requirements, literature and benchmarking in order to reflect on the shortcomings if any for all dental schools to consider. This is the thrust of this study.

We are not proposing that a separate course for professional ethics and law to be introduced. This is up to the school whether to integrate or otherwise the component of the course sufficiently in whatever manner they deem fit. We are just inviting self-reflection and review and highlighting relevant considerations.

We are just asking for dental schools to be reminded to review their curriculum to see how it accords with

(a) The regulatory requirements of both of the profession and the Malaysian Qualification Agency seen from the local context. This is given heavy emphasis on the paper. Please note this too.

(b) The selected curriculum that has only one learning outcome embedded within one other course Community Dentistry that relate to professional ethics and law. There are five learning outcome in this course. Can it fairly be said that the realm of professional ethics and law is covered sufficiently within this course? The course mentions Malaysian Legal System which has little to do with dental law dimension. This is independent of any survey done. Whatever the
outcome of the survey a review is invited. Hence we urge objectivity please do not over focus or deflect focus on the incidental and minor points of a limited survey (which we answered) but we cannot answer to subjectivity. The major entire portion of the paper is on regulatory requirements and what is supposed to be covered for such a course. Please let us focus on this. Please also find a copy of the article for reviewer I to respond to the imputation that quotes were not right cited.

(c) Hence we expanded on areas dental law to enable reflection on what is missed out.
(e) We provide and added on additional comparative benchmarks Like American Dental Handbook on Ethics coverage, World Dental Federation Guide etc to highlight what is scope and range of what is covered. From this it is evident what is missing in local curriculum if one is willing to objectively see what is usually covered as opposed to what is covered. Please let this not be overlooked.

We thank the reviewers for the feedback given. As stated previously, all comments we strive to take in stride to improve the paper.

Please find the revised version taking into account the comments of the reviewers.

(a) Please view file final fair 030820 (without markup).
(b) Responses to the comments by reviewer 1 have been made on the markup up copy under track changes. For ease a separate R 220720 is attached.
(b) Reviewer 2 comments on article were not extensive and quite minimal and responses are noted in separate file.

We have taken much effort in responses to reviewer comments (both times) and look forward to and trust to have a favourable response soon.

As this is part of our project outcome for which we are running out of time (we have invested much of it herein), we greatly look forward to and appreciate an acceptance letter.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Usharani Balasingam

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