

February 16, 2017

Damian Garcia-Olmo, MD, PhD
Chief, Department of Surgery
Fundacion Jimenez Diaz University Hospital
Madrid, Spain

Editorial Office
World Journal of Gastroenterology

Dear Editors,

Thank you for your careful review of our manuscript entitled “Disruptive behavior in the workplace: challenges for gastroenterology fellows,” by Drs. Nalinee Srisarajivakul, Catherine Lucero, Xiao Jing Wang, Michael Poles, Colleen Gillespie, Sondra Zabar, Lisa Malter, and myself for consideration as a publication in *World Journal of Gastroenterology*. In this letter we will seek to address the concerns raised by the reviewers.

In regards to the comments of reviewer 02953369:

“They should make it very clear in the ‘Aim’ and subsequently in the manuscript that this study was done in ‘first year’ fellows only”

This reviewer has asked us to make it absolutely clear that our study was applied to first-year gastroenterology fellows only and to explore the implications of this limitation. A statement explicitly clarifying the inclusion of only first-year fellows has been appended to the “Aim” section of the abstract and is reiterated in the “Materials and Methods” section of the main manuscript. In addition, it is included in the “Scientific research process” document of our resubmission. The “Discussion” portion of our manuscript also has been revised to more thoroughly explore the effects of just including first-year fellows.

In regards to the comments of reviewer 02953588:

“The authors already recognize among the limitations that experience was carried out with only first year fellows enrolled, who have little professional knowledge and less inter-professional communication experience. How can this affect the results?”

In our response to the concerns of the previous reviewer as well, we have amended the “Discussion” portion of our manuscript to more thoroughly explore the effects of just including first-year fellows.

“Authors should provide quantitative information on endoscopy outcomes in terms of duration (if they took longer, or even if the procedure had to be discontinued during the conflict) and in relation to the quality of the endoscopy (for instance if the simulated polyps were lost, lowering their polyp detection rate in case of conflict, etc.). This would help to understand not only how

the trainee works with his colleagues during these situations but also if the results regarding the health of the patient (diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopy) can be affected."

The reviewer raises a very interesting question regarding the clinical repercussions of first-year fellows and their apparent deficits in leadership ability and interpersonal communication. Our study was designed specifically to examine the fellows' communication, ability to handle difficult professional situations, and teamwork skills. All of the OSCE stations in the study tested a particular aspect of intrapersonal and interpersonal communication and none of the stations were designed to test the fellows' fund of knowledge or procedural competence. We deliberately chose to not record colonoscopy quality measures (such as withdrawal time, polyp detection rate, success in removing and tattooing the lesion) in accordance with our aforementioned goals and design schema as clinical outcomes were outside of the scope of our study which focuses solely on fellow communication. We believe that the reviewer's question is an excellent impetus for spurring a future direction of study in ----- and was unfortunately not addressed in our study. We have amended the "OSCE Case Development and Implementation" subsection of the "Methods and Materials" section to discussion to more accurately delineate the scope of our study.

My co-authors and I again thank you very much for your consideration of this manuscript. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have about this work and as the corresponding author my contact information can be found below.

The manuscript contains original material that has not been published and is not being submitted elsewhere for publication. The final manuscript has been seen and approved by all authors. We believe this manuscript about gastroenterology fellows' education demonstrates unique and important areas of curricular development and for training program performance improvement. We hope you will consider it worthy of publication.

Please address all correspondence concerning this manuscript to the following address:

Elizabeth Weinshel, MD
VA New York Harbor Healthcare System
Division of Gastroenterology
423 East 23rd Street
New York, NY 10010
Email: Elizabeth.Weinshel@nyumc.org
Telephone: 1-917-634-7394

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Weinschel, MD