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September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Re: Invited Review ID# 03110530

Shui Qiu,

Science Editor, Editorial Office

**Baishideng Publishing Group Inc**

E-mail: [s.qiu@wjgnet.com](mailto:s.qiu@wjgnet.com)

Dear Editor,

On behalf of myself and my co-authors, I am submitting the enclosed, revised manuscript "*Practical Strategies for Increasing Efficiency and Effectiveness in Critical Care Education.*" We thank the reviewers for their thoughtful comments and suggestions. This revised version addresses each comment made by the peer-reviewers, as explained below, and as provided in the text using red font.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any further questions or concerns.

Thank you in advance for your time and efforts in reviewing our revised manuscript.

Sincerely,

Edward Bittner M.D., Ph.D.

Reviewer Comment #1: A few suggestions I had are regarding the section on In-situ Team based Training. This section seemed a bit long, and was about a page longer than the other sections. I think it could be trimmed down a bit. I would suggest taking out the paragraph about using simulation to test for latent system errors. This relates more to use for quality improvement and safety rather than education. And the other paragraphs could also be shortened.

*Response #1: We appreciate the reviewer's suggestion. We agree that the section is "a bit long" and have removed the text which focuses on quality improvement. We believe that this revision also improves the focus on education.*

Reviewer Comment #2: I also am not sure the authors touch much on use of technology outside of simulation. In the "smartphone" era, I would be curious if there are "Apps" available to use as education tools or to somehow track an individual's learning. There may be no studies available but this would be important to note. Perhaps put in future directions or the conclusions sections.

*Response #2: We agree with the reviewer that there is great potential for emerging technology to improve education in the critical care setting. We have added the following text to the conclusion section to emphasize this point:*

*"Moving forward, it is imperative that critical care educators keep abreast of emerging educational technologies including personalized learning, mobile technologies and learning analytics. While there is sparse literature describing the benefits and limitations, such technology has the potential to enhance learning and clinical competence within the critical care setting."*

Reviewer Comment #3: Conclusion might be too brief. If this is the only paragraph someone reads you may want to mention which approaches have been shown to work. Such as Just in time training or In situ team based training. Also I think it is nice to add on recommendations for the future. Do we need more studies? Do we need more technology?

*Response#3 : We appreciate the reviewer's comments regarding "approaches that work" and have added the following text to the conclusion section to emphasize this point:*

*"While a variety of such approaches are described in this paper they share common characteristics including utilizing methods to rapidly identify learner needs, teaching directly to those needs, and providing specific feedback on performance. In addition these approaches emphasize active learning activities and integrate educational experiences from the classroom and clinical settings."*

Reviewer Comment #4: Also I think it is nice to add on recommendations for the future. Do we need more studies? Do we need more technology?

*We appreciate and agree with the reviewer's comment and added the text as described in Response #2 above.*