PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Meta-Analysis

Manuscript NO: 44806

Title: Empathy assessment in healthcare students is highly heterogeneous: A systematic review and meta-analysis (2012-2016)

Reviewer's code: 02454185

Reviewer's country: China

Science editor: Jia-Ping Yan

Date sent for review: 2018-11-28

Date reviewed: 2018-11-28

Review time: 1 Hour

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
[ ] Grade A: Excellent	[ ] Grade A: Priority publishing	[ ] Accept (High priority)	Peer-Review:
[Y] Grade B: Very good	[Y] Grade B: Minor language polishing	[ ] Accept (General priority)	[Y] Anonymous
[ ] Grade C: Good	[ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	[Y] Minor revision	[ ] Onymous
[ ] Grade D: Fair	[ ] Grade D: Rejection	[ ] Major revision	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the topic of the manuscript:
[ ] Grade E: Do not publish		[ ] Rejection	[Y] Advanced
			[ ] General
			[ ] No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			[ ] Yes
			[Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is generally a well written and properly conducted systematic review and meta-analysis. 1. in the introduction, the authors need to explicitly describe the objective and hypothesis of the study. 2. The funnel plot is conerfactal that most studies

are in the tip of the funnel plot, in fact, most of the studies are supposed to be at the base of the plot (e.g. small studies with large variance should predominate). please explain this. 3. in the meta-regression analysis, will you consider other variables such as year of the medical student into analysis? 4. the sample size in many studies are not very large; thus the small study effect may be discussed. e.g. small studies are more likely to report better results. cite a reference (Crit Care. 2013 Jan 9;17(1):R2. doi: 10.1186/cc11919.) for the discussion as this phenomenon has been well characterized in other fields.

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

[   ] The same title

[   ] Duplicate publication

[   ] Plagiarism

[Y] No

BPG Search:

[   ] The same title

[   ] Duplicate publication

[   ] Plagiarism

[Y] No

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Meta-Analysis

Manuscript NO: 44806

Title: Empathy assessment in healthcare students is highly heterogeneous: A systematic review and meta-analysis (2012-2016)

Reviewer's code: 02904354

Reviewer's country: China

Science editor: Jia-Ping Yan

Date sent for review: 2018-11-28

Date reviewed: 2018-12-02

Review time: 4 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
[ ] Grade A: Excellent	[ ] Grade A: Priority publishing	[ ] Accept (High priority)	Peer-Review:
[ ] Grade B: Very good	[Y] Grade B: Minor language polishing	[ ] Accept (General priority)	[Y] Anonymous
[Y] Grade C: Good	[ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	[Y] Minor revision	[ ] Onymous
[ ] Grade D: Fair	[ ] Grade D: Rejection	[ ] Major revision	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the topic of the manuscript:
[ ] Grade E: Do not publish		[ ] Rejection	[ ] Advanced
			[ ] General
			[Y] No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			[ ] Yes
			[Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a comprehensive study in which a systematic review with meta-analysis was conducted. Generally, it is well prepared with good format. Notably, a large number of relevant studies are carefully reviewed and analyzed. It is eligible for publication in this

journal. Only some minor spelling and grammar issues should be revised. Please see the words highlighted by yellow in the attachment. Additionally, if the authors can update the last search, it will be better.

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

[   ] The same title

[   ] Duplicate publication

[   ] Plagiarism

[Y] No

BPG Search:

[   ] The same title

[   ] Duplicate publication

[   ] Plagiarism

[Y] No