

Dear Editors and reviewer,

Thank you for your conditional acceptance of our opinion review entitled “The Impacts and Challenges of U.S. Medical Students During the COVID-19 Pandemic” for publication in the World Journal of Clinical Cases. We appreciate your feedback in improving our manuscript and have made changes as detailed in the responses below.

Reviewer #1: It is a very interesting article, however several typos are present in the text and figure.

-Thank you for drawing our attention to this. We have corrected the spelling throughout the manuscript and within the figures. We do not believe there are any more typos in the manuscript.

Science Editor:

1) I found the authors did not provide the original figures. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor.

- We have uploaded the original figures in PowerPoint format. We have added a Figure Legends section to the manuscript.

2) The author should number the references in Arabic numerals according to the citation order in the text. The reference numbers will be superscripted in square brackets at the end of the sentence with the citation content or after the cited author’s name, with no spaces

- Apologies. We have reformatted the references throughout the manuscript accordingly.

11) The authors need to provide an editable manuscript (format: .doc or .docx)

- Apologies. We have uploaded a Word document in the .docx format.

Editorial Office Director: I have checked the comments written by the science editor. Even though the author is from the United States, the reviewer pointed out that there were typos in the manuscript. The language should be further edited.

-We have updated the spelling throughout the manuscript as outlined in our response to Reviewer #1.

Additionally, as this is a rapidly evolving topic, a few changes have recently been made in the medical education landscape surrounding COVID-19. These changes are reflected in the fourth paragraph under the “COVID-19 and Traditional Undergraduate Medical Education” subheading, or the fifth overall paragraph of the manuscript. The USMLE recently announced that Step 2 Clinical Skills will be suspended for the next 12-18 months. This change has been reflected in the manuscript. Prometric Testing Centers continue to have some closures, but some sites have reopened, and this temporary change has been noted in the manuscript. Additionally, the USMLE governing board has begun implementing some alternative test delivery options at medical schools. This has been added to the manuscript.

Sincerely,
Stacey Rolak