



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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Title: A look at Chinese medical student interest in COVID-19 pandemic

Reviewer's code: 05420132

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD, MPH

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: United States

Author's Country/Territory: China

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Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Peer-Review Checklist: 1. Title does not reflect the main hypothesis of the manuscript. The manuscript focuses on medical student willingness to volunteer for involvement in pandemic management, their understanding of certain aspects of the pandemic and what specialty they plan to go into. It does not focus specifically on whether they are “ready” for the pandemic. The title is very vague and misleading. At the time of the survey, the pandemic had had its major effect on China therefore whether they are or were “ready” is irrelevant. The title should focus on what useful information the survey brings to the table and what implications can be inferred from it. For example: “A look at Chinese medical student interest in COVID-19 pandemic involvement” or something similar. 2. Abstract summarizes what the paper describes well. Avoid use of “exploit” in conclusion of abstract. 3. “public health” is not really relevant to the paper 4. Background section of the paper is well written. Significance of the study should be further elaborated on and why this survey provides useful information. 5. The use of the statistical analysis tools for the survey results seems a bit of a stretch and should be reconsidered. 6. Research objectives that the paper intro has set forth are achieved however whether these results are useful for progressing the field is another question. 7. The interpretation of results in discussion section 8. Figure 2 is not necessary. Table 1 by itself is not useful. Info can possibly be added to another table. Table 2 also not super useful. Would be helpful to include the actual survey questions instead of table 2. Given how little is still known regarding SARS-CoV-2, it seems a little extreme to gauge readiness to participate in medical care during the pandemic based on early understanding of the virus. 9. Using biostats to interpret results of this survey seems somewhat unnecessary given the results do not have much useful information. 10. Units used are correct. 11. References used are relevant. Some citations used in reference section have extensive author lists and could be considered cutting down. 12. The



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manuscript is well organized and easy to read. Language and grammar are accurate and appropriate. 13. Followed strobe 14. Manuscript met the requirements of ethics In summary, the authors gather data by way of a survey to medical students of one university in China in order to gather information about understanding of facts regarding the pandemic, desire to be involved in management of the pandemic and future specialty plans. The idea of medical student involvement in the pandemic is an interesting and somewhat controversial one. There have been varying approaches to utilization of medical students in different regions of the world as mentioned in the discussion section. Focusing on data regarding how best to utilize medical students and student opinions on how best they are willing and able to help would be useful. Unfortunately, this survey and its interpretation does not accomplish this. The take away points from the survey involve demographics of those that state they are willing to participate which is not discussed in a way that advertises this as useful information. Additionally, survey shows knowledge regarding the pandemic and an interpretation that those without good knowledge would not be equipped to help in the pandemic. However, at the time of this survey, little was known even by experts about the virus so one would not expect medical students to know. Questions regarding how well-equipped medical students are to participate in pandemic management should be approached in a different manner. The last main point of the survey was the specialties that medical students were choosing. There is a huge confounder in that there is no way to know to what extent medical student's plans to specialize in a specialty relevant to the pandemic was altered by the pandemic. This paper takes the results of the medical student survey and tries to analyze it in a way that informs decisions on whether medical students are ready and able to be used as part of the work force. It also even suggests ways to try and manipulate more medical students into being willing to be a part of the work force. The survey provides interesting information about a large group



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of individuals in a unique position in the pandemic and can be useful to general public if presented in a different light and aim of the paper is altered. The paper can be reformatted in a way to plainly just represent the data on medical student interest in the pandemic, involvement in reading about the pandemic, interest in joining the work force and how many plan to specialize in relevant specialties. Removing the entire discussion aspect of what all of this means regarding whether they are “ready” to join the work force. I do not think one can jump to that conclusion based on this survey data. Instead it can be provide a look at this unique population having a unique experience as a medical student during a pandemic and what can possibly be expected in the future regarding what specialties they may go into.