Prabhu Absence of MH in new medical curriculum

Review comments:

1. It is a well written paper, very relevant to the making of a reflexive doctor. It is important in the field of bioethics in India  
2. It is extremely topical in the light of the 2019 revised medical curriculum proposed by MCI. It should be heard and should influence the clear and definitive inclusion of elective courses in the Humanities by medical colleges with the mandate of the MCI.  
3. It fits v well with the journal.  
4. The information has been articulated strongly and the topic needs the reinforcement that the author provides. No plagiarism as it is embedded in personal experiences.  
5. I think the conclusions are strong and arguments well developed.  
6. It can be accepted as is. A small suggestion is to reduce the overuse of the word ‘foregrounds’.

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MS Editor’s comments:

This is an excellent write up on Medical Humanities and its obvious absence in the currently revamped curriculum. While on one hand, the new curriculum should be appreciated for its emphasis on AETCOM, the questions raised by the author are very much relevant. I have some suggestions for the author:

1. The paper has clearly brought out the importance of engaging with medical humanities at the methodology level. Such expertise and facilitators are rare within the walls of a medical college. Many medical colleges may not even have a clear understanding of what medical humanities really means. It would be instructive if the author can briefly explain (in maybe about 200 words) her experiences of engaging with medical humanities at the methodological level, so that it is clear to the reader that this is doable.
2. For there to be depth and intensity of involvement with the humanities in the medical curriculum, it raises the questions of who should teach, what should be taught, how and when. These discussions are very pertinent in most multidisciplinary specialties. The author may consider mentioning these issues.
3. Finally, the question I find difficult to answer is - "what is the goal of including humanities in the medical curriculum?" I think this should be explained in detail and this goal should direct the process of including humanities in the curriculum.
4. The author can take a close look at the word count. it is currently over 3000 words. If it can be edit to about 2500 words, it would be easy to read and more succinct. Overall an excellent manuscript.

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