August 29, 2016

Dear *University of Ottawa Journal of Medicine,*

Our manuscript “*A Peer-Based Approach to Reducing Stigma and Improving Mental Health Support for Medical Students*” is enclosed for consideration of publication in the University of Ottawa Journal of Medicine.

Our study is a commentary on a novel peer-based program developed at the University of Ottawa that aims to reduce stigma and improve mental health support for medical students. The objectives of the commentary are to briefly outline the current state of mental health in Canadian medical schools, to review the suggestions of Canadian regulatory bodies regarding mental health, and to describe the development of a peer-based program based on these suggestions. The implications of this commentary are to shed light on issues surrounding the mental health of Canadian medical students and to potentially pave the way for a new peer-based approach to mental illness that can be employed on a national level.

The authors certify that all co-authors have read the final version of the manuscript and participated in its creation substantially.

The authors certify that no patient data has been included in the submitted work.

The authors confirm that the manuscript has not been accepted elsewhere for publication.

The authors do not have any conflicts of interest or financial sources to disclose.

Yours sincerely,

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