



Correspondence

Impaired mental health status and uncivil workplace behaviours: An egg and chicken problem

Dear Editor,

Sexual harassment, discrimination and bullying as widespread problems negatively affect the medical training atmosphere. Accordingly, we read with great interest the paper by Duba and colleagues (Duba et al., 2020). They reported that Sexual Harassment (SH) is associated with impaired mental health. The authors concluded that SH as a potential target of interest to improve the mental health of medical students. We would like to add a minor comment on this study. Previous studies have demonstrated that the medical student impaired mental health negatively affects patients' care and safety, relationship with faculties, communication with colleagues and ultimately the culture of the medical profession (Dyrbye et al., 2005). Although, impaired mental health and poor communication skills are not reasonable causes to be deserving SH or other uncivil behaviours, but impaired communication skills can predispose an individual to uncivil behaviours like SH, discrimination and bullying. We think that there is a defective cycle between impaired mental health status and uncivil workplace behaviours in medical training.

Further studies are required to elucidate the causal relationship between SH exposure and the mental health status.

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Declaration of Competing Interest

None.

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