

[Manuscript ID]: Responses to Reviewer Comments

Title of Paper

Reviewer Comment	Author Response	Change to Manuscript
Reviewer #1		
"Reviewer comment verbatim."	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Give a courteous overall response (e.g., "We thank the reviewer for this excellent suggestion." 2. Describe how you will or will not incorporate the suggestions (e.g., "This is unfortunately outside the scope of this paper" or "We agree that [your suggestion] would help provide context here"). 3. Describe how you have acted on it (e.g., "We added the following section to the paper"). 	<p>The following text was added to the manuscript:</p> <p>In lines [line numbers] of section "____", we added: <i>"include manuscript text verbatim here."</i></p>
"I noticed that the authors are discussing the ABSITE but they did not include the extremely important work by [my paper, et al] describing its limitations."	<p>→ <i>If you DO want to include the suggestion</i></p> <p>Thank you for this valuable insight. This paper was not available at the time of submission, but we agree that this work will add valuable context to our paper. We have updated section 2 to include this work as described in the next column.</p>	<p>The following text was added to the manuscript:</p> <p>In lines [24-26] in section 2, we added: <i>"and several limitations have been noted including xyz, [my paper et al]"</i>.</p>
"AI is really interesting to me so I just feel like your paper should include more about how AI might affect the ABSITE"	<p>→ <i>If you DO NOT want to include the suggestion</i></p> <p>Thank you for your perspective; while we agree that AI poses a fascinating avenue for future work in standardized testing, at this time, we do not believe we have adequate data to include a section about AI's performance on the ABSITE. While this is beyond the scope of this current paper, it will be an important future direction.</p>	No changes.

<p>"In line 6 you said that we need more rural surgeons but I feel like we already have enough of them so you shouldn't say that."</p>	<p>If you disagree with a reviewer's comment, but intend to revise your manuscript to improve the clarity and/or strength of your argument.</p> <p>Thank you for your comments. While we agree that the perception of the physician workforce may differ by region, AAMC data predicts a shortage of nearly 20,000 surgeons by 2031. We are projected to lose 25% of rural surgeons by 2030 to retirement, and 28% fewer students from rural areas are going to medical school than they were in 2002, leading to fewer surgeons with a tie to rural communities. We apologize if this section was not clear and will update it accordingly. The references described here will be added to our reference list.</p>	<p>The following text was added to the manuscript:</p> <p>In lines [7-9] in the Introduction, we added: <i>"There is a shortage of surgeons defined by the AAMC as xyz [cite aamc data]. This is particularly significant in rural areas [original citation that the reviewer didn't think adequately described the issue]. We are losing ¼ rural surgeons to retirement in coming years [new citation] and 28% fewer medical students are from rural communities. [final citation]. Therefore, there is a need to increase the rural surgery workforce."</i></p>
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Reviewer Comment	Author Response	Change to Manuscript
Reviewer #2		
"Reviewer comment verbatim."	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Give a courteous overall response (e.g., "We thank the reviewer for this excellent suggestion." 2. Describe how you will or will not incorporate the suggestions (e.g., "This is unfortunately outside the scope of this paper" or "We agree that [your suggestion] would help provide context here"). 3. Describe how you have acted on it (e.g., "We added the following section to the paper"). 	<p>The following text was added to the manuscript:</p> <p>In lines [line numbers] of section "____", we added: <i>"include manuscript text verbatim here."</i></p>