Reviewer's report

Title: PediDraw: A web-based tool for drawing a pedigree in genetic counseling

Version: 2 Date: 3 May 2007

Reviewer: Sandy Raeburn

Reviewer's report:

General:
I think this approach to providing genetic counselling (with the family submitting their information online and seeing the output in a family tree) is a valuable way to identify high risk family structures and genetic causes, cost-effectively.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
I think the authors should have mentioned the existing, commercial pedigree drawing programmes (Cyrillic, Progeny etc). Also there was a 'pedDraw' programme some years ago but I have not been able to find that recently. Does the PediDraw programme here described have a new intellectual step which was copyrighted?
The authors need to state what use is made of the submitted data after the family have used it. Is it deleted or kept for a given period? What safeguards are there for confidentiality?
I tested the system on my own (slightly imaginary) family tree. Who has access to that information and who can note my password choice?

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
There are a few English errors, not important ones. e.g. in line 4 of the abstract the seventh word should be 'drawn'. In the next line 'in a standardized' should be replaced by most' (if that is the meaning the authors intend).

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests