Author's response to reviews

Title: A reference frame for blood volume in children and adolescents.

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Mr Chairman,

Dear editorial board.

We are pleased that the editor and the reviewer considered the manuscript of interest to readers of BMC.

In the following page we give a point to point response to both reviewers

1) Both reviewers pointed out that language corrections were need to make the manuscript suitable for publication. We took this point into consideration and we made use of a copy-editing service. We have reviewed the manuscript after the copy-editing has been performed and we resubmit the revised version now. We hope that you can decide on acceptance of the manuscript.

2) Reviewer PJ Noguiera: 'I am also assuming that what the authors call standardisation is the same thing that is on my mind. To be able to ascertain better what was done I would appreciate that the authors explain the standardisation procedure.'

Answer: The term standardisation was used in the section of the background and refers to The International Committee for standardisation in Hematology. We refer to a reference method that has been defined in accordance with the rules of the International Committee in Hematology. They recommend the use of radioiodine labelled albumin for measurement of plasma volume and radioactive chromium for the measurement of red cell volume. We used this standard procedure for the measurement of red cell volume and plasma volume to ensure a meaningful comparison of data and to be compatible with the provided reference method.

We hope you can decide on acceptance of this manuscript

Yours sincerely

Ann Raes