Author's response to reviews

Title: Communication and Proximity Affects Attributable to Sense of Presence in Distance Bioinformatics Education

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Responses to Review 2

Reviewer 2 had no additional comments. The following are responses to reviewer 1 and the editor.

We have used track changes rather than font changes so that changes can be identified more easily and have improved the prose.

Reviewer 1, comment 1: We abbreviated the introduction by reducing the wording in the background section from 1027 to 897 words. We reduced the entire manuscript from 2535 to 2438 words while adding content.

Reviewer 1, comment 2: We did a comparison of performance and ratings of first and second year students with third and forth year students and there were no significant differences. This suggestion was made because the reviewer felt that there may have been differences in degree of exposure to videoconferencing by the students that might affect differences. Videoconferencing is not widely or routinely deployed at the medical school so the non-significant differences we found from this additional analysis are not surprising. We do, however, report doing the analysis and the findings, since other readers may have questions about prior exposure.

Reviewer 1, comment 3: We have removed journal issue numbers in references having volumes with continuous page numbering, but have keep them for references that number pages for each issue and for online journals having volume and issue numbers but no page numbers.

Reviewer 1, comment 4: We have cleaned up double citation numbers used to keep track of different numbers resulting from the addition of references to the original version of the manuscript.