Reviewer's report

Title: Enhanced virtual microscopy for collaborative education

Version: 1 Date: 21 November 2010

Reviewer: Rachel Ellaway

Reviewer's report:

This is a report on the development and use of a virtual microscope tool built using Google Maps. It is a succinct and important paper and should be published forthwith. All of my comments are Minor Essential Revisions:

General issue: although some consideration of the limitations of the approach are given I would like to see a broader consideration of the impact of not teaching the manual skills of using a microscope. Citing others' reflections on this matter would be sufficient. Also what kind of dependence is there on Google and what happens if their code changes or is pulled?

General issue: the paper could do with another round of copy editing as there are a number of syntax and clarity issues. More specifically:

p4 "but rather the function" should be something like "but also the function"
p5 "user preference and adoption" should be something like "user preference and their uptake of the system"
p6 "just once and available" should be something like "just once and then made available"
p8 "is as easily and broadly" should be something like "is as easy to use and broadly"
p9 "can be collapse so" should be "can be collapsed so"
p9 "the social curation of folksonomy" needs to be better explained
p11 "far more efficiently" - please unpack and explain
p11 "We implemented the system ..." - please explain how the two were used together - at the same bench, alternating classes, separate cohorts?

And finally the screenshot: although the histology is clear the interface is rather small - please redo at a lower screen resolution to make the interface clearer

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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