Author's response to reviews

Title: Biostatistical and Medical Statistics Graduate Education

Authors:

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Author's response to reviews: see over
To the Editor;

Please find attached an updated manuscript. Also find attached my responses to each of the points raised by the reviewers.

Sincerely,

Michael Brimacombe, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Director of Biostatistics Graduate Program
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**Reviewer 1 Report:**

**Major Compulsory Revisions**
1. There is mention of online learning on page 4 of the manuscript. Although it is a growing field, the author needs to explain a little more about the introduction of biostatistics into an online format for learning. The way it is currently worded seems abrupt.

   >> I have added a section addressing the use of online platforms in biostatistical and medical statistical training. I have added several references in this regard.

2. There is mention of ROI format....need to explain what this is. All readers may not be aware.

   >> I have adjusted this.

**Minor Essential Revisions**

3. Some spelling mistakes to be corrected - qualitative on page 6, exaggeration on page 6, etc..... author needs to run a spell check. Other formatting errors (certain words in upper / small caps).

   >> Errors have been corrected and formatting issues addressed.
Reviewer 2 report:

1. I did not receive a complete abstract, but would add that biostatistics is not just for medical researchers but for clinicians and clinicians-in-training the help them understand and interpret the medical literature.

   >> I have broadened the focus to include some issues related to the statistical training of medical and health professionals.

2. While this is a position piece, there seems to be many places that could use citations to support the author's statements.

   >> Additional citations have been added throughout.

3. This article focuses on graduate school education but not specifically on graduate medical education. Thus, I am not sure this would be of much interest to the medical education audience of this journal.

   >> I have broadened the focus of the paper to include issues related to the statistical training of medical and health professionals. I have also addressed the challenges of integrating quantitative biostatistical training at various levels.

Reviewer 3 report:

I have enjoyed reading the manuscript and find it interesting.

I think in the end of the introduction the authors should state the aim of this study and its structure.

>> I have clarified the aim of the study and structure. I have edited and more tightly focused the article throughout the text.