Author's response to reviews

Title: Learning while Evaluating: The Use of an Electronic Evaluation Portfolio in a Geriatric Medicine Clerkship

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Montreal, December 7, 2005

Dr. Peter Newmark  
Editor-in-Chief, BMC-series titles

Dear Dr. Newmark,

My colleagues and I would like to re-submit for your consideration our manuscript entitled: “Learning while Evaluating: The Use of an Electronic Evaluation Portfolio in a Geriatric Medicine Clerkship”.

We received the constructive comments from the reviewer and we have made changes to our manuscript accordingly. The changes made to our manuscript include:

- “…no further comment about the introductory sessions influencing comfort with evaluation and feedback mechanism…”

First, we would like to apologize to the reviewer for the mistake in the referred paragraph and line on page 7.
Concerning the reviewer’s comments, we consider them very appropriate. We went back to our databases and we found that in fact there is a difference between the level of comfort between those students exposed to the intro session and those who did not have it. This new information was included in the results section, page 9, 2nd paragraph, lines 5 to 9. By contrast, in the post clerkships surveys no differences were found. We reported it on page 10, 1st paragraph, lines 1 and 2.
The abstract was modified in the results section to include the students comfort with the system after the intro session.
In addition, we included this new information and results in table 1.
Finally, and additional comment concerning students comfort after the intro sessions was included in the discussion on page 13, first paragraph, where lines 1 to 3 were modified accordingly.

In conclusion, we consider that we have fully addressed all the reviewers concerns which have significantly improved the quality of our manuscript. We hope that this
manuscript is now suitable for publication as a research article in BMC-Medical Education.

Sincerely,

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