Author's response to reviews

Title: Did we describe what you meant? Findings and methodological discussion of an empirical validation study for a systematic review of reasons

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Version: 4 Date: 18 September 2014

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Dear editors,

Editor's request: „However, please can you clarify whether you received ethics committee approval for your questionnaire based study.“

Author’s response: We inserted the following text in the manuscript, under the new subheading “Ethics committee approval, informed consent and data handling”: “According to German regulation (Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Laws, Medical Professional Law), no ethics approval is necessary for socio-empirical research that does not involve patients. Our study surveyed authors of bioethics papers. The handling of data safety and informed consent in this study was as following: Consent was considered to be implied when participants completed the online survey. No personal data of participants was collected in the survey. All data concerning the answers in the survey are stored on computers protected by the security policy of Hannover Medical School.” (p. 7-8)