Author's response to reviews

Title: People, Organizational, and Leadership Factors Influencing Access to Informatics Expertise and Resources in the Academic Clinical and Translational Research Environment

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RE: MS 5178116027036207 - People, Organizational, and Leadership Factors Influencing Access to Informatics Expertise and Resources in the Academic Clinical and Translational Research Environment (formerly entitled: “Informatics Leadership Models in the Academic Clinical and Translational Research Enterprise”)

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please find attached to this cover letter a second revision to our manuscript entitled “People, Organizational, and Leadership Factors Influencing Access to Informatics Expertise and Resources in the Academic Clinical and Translational Research Environment” (formerly entitled: “Informatics Leadership Models in the Academic Clinical and Translational Research Enterprise”). We would again like to thank the referees for their comprehensive, thoughtful, and highly constructive critique of our submission. We believe that as a whole, the revisions we have made to the manuscript, as outlined below, serve to address these concerns and improve our submission.

Reviewer #1

This reviewer noted numerous grammatical and/or linguistic issues in the manuscript, all of which have been addressed in the revision per their suggestions/comments.
Reviewer # 2

This reviewer noted the following major critiques of the revised manuscript:

• The description of the methods in the manuscript does not adequately address the mixed-method nature of the study being reported upon. In particular, the content and methods used with regards to the thematic analysis component of the work is not sufficiently well described.

• The manuscript does not address issues related to “translation” as it pertain directly to Biomedical Informatics, nor the financial issues that may influence the factors surrounding access to BMI, CS, IT, and IS resources in AHCs.

• The institutions involved in the study (from a data generation standpoint) are heterogeneous.

• The abstract does not fully reflect the range of topic matter addressed in the manuscript.

In response to this critique, we have made the following revisions to the manuscript:

• We have significantly expanded the description of the qualitative analysis methods employed in our study in methods section, and augmented our results to provide intermediate data that characterizes such approaches to thematic analysis as used in our study.

• While we agree with the reviewer that the issue of technology “translation” is both important and relevant to our study, this particular factor represents an emergent theme in our analyses for which we did not collect significant explanatory data, and therefore provides an avenue for future research. This same phenomena applies to the emergent issues of differential financial models relevant to this topic under study, again representing an avenue for future research. As such, we have noted this issue in our limitations and future directions component of the submission.
• While we understand the concerns raised regarding the nature of our convenience sample, we purposely included the broader AMIA Clinical Research Informatics Working Group (as is noted in our methods) as a forum for potential respondents to this study that overcomes the limited scope of members represented by the CTSA consortium. Certainly, as was noted in our limitations, future studies with larger numbers of broadly representative respondents would serve to enhance and extend the initial results described in this report.

• We have significantly extended and enhance the abstract to better represent the full scope of methods and results described in the ensuing manuscript.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information in order to evaluate this resubmission. We will look forward to your comments and feedback on our manuscript.

Respectfully,

Philip R.O. Payne, Ph.D.