Reviewer’s report

Title: Informatics Leadership Models in the Academic Clinical and Translational Research Enterprise

Version: 3 Date: 7 June 2012

Reviewer: Levi Waldron

Reviewer’s report:

Summary

The authors present a survey and thematic evaluation to investigate leadership models in the academic and translational research enterprise. This survey asks questions about the format of the respondent’s institution, and about the respondent’s impressions of communication and leadership between IT and BMI at their institution.

The authors provide some qualitative results from the survey, but the main contribution of the paper is an extensive discussion of the roles of different fields in the research enterprise, and steps to improve effectiveness of the research enterprise. This type of qualitative research is a valid and useful approach to addressing structural gaps and improvements in transdisciplinary research, and the specific recommendations seem useful and deserve to be published. Several recommendations for improvement are given below.

Recommendation: accept

Minor Essential Revisions

Conclusion (in the Abstract) should more clearly reflect the recommendations from the Discussion, and the conclusions. Currently the conclusions are essentially that 1) leadership influences organizational effectiveness, and 2) better understanding of organizational structures would be helpful, which are not very compelling conclusions.

The Thematic Evaluation Of Exemplary Organizational Structures At Major AHCs is orphaned – authors mention they did it and say the results are in Table 4, but do not interpret the findings in the Results, or discuss them in the Discussion. Some discussion of how this thematic evaluation influenced the recommendations and conclusions is needed.

What was the response rate of the survey?

-9-

• risk ratio of 0.061 (0.08, 1.06): what is the interval given in brackets? It does not contain the stated estimate of 0.061.

Discretionary Revisions
p -2-
• priority (in the United States), -> priority in the United States,
• we describe an effort intended to address -&gt; we describe an effort to address

p -3-
• research and ultimately, improvements -&gt; research and ultimately, to improvements

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**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.