Author's response to reviews

Title: The caCORE Software Development Kit: Streamlining construction of interoperable biomedical information services

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Author's response to reviews: see over
December 6, 2005

Dear BMC,

On behalf of myself and my co-authors, I am pleased to submit this final revised version of The caCORE Software Development Kit: Streamlining construction of interoperable biomedical information services. This revised version of the manuscript includes changes recommended by the latest Referee. It also addresses the formatting issues raised by the BioMed Central editors. Below please find an itemized list of changes since the last revision. I believe the revisions address all the outstanding issues that were raised. Thank you for your conditional acceptance of our manuscript, and I look forward to hearing of its final acceptance.

Sincerely,

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AUTHOR ADDRESS CHANGE: One of the authors, Ram Chilukuri, has moved to a new position. We have changed his email address, and have indicated his new location.

Referee 1:

COMMENT: "Page 3, Line 3
This sentence is left incomplete: ‘Complete documentation and updated information on caCORE’"

RESPONSE: We have corrected the sentence and added the link to the caCORE project page.

Editors:

COMMENT: "Abstract - Abstracts must be structured into Background, Results, Conclusions. Please also revise the abstract to ensure that it is not longer than 350 words. Please remember to also update the abstract details on the submission page."

RESPONSE: We have consolidated the Abstract into Background, Results, Conclusions, and reduced its length to 350 words.

COMMENT: "Competing interests - If there are none to declare, please write ‘The authors declare that they have no competing interests’."

RESPONSE: The verbage in the Competing Interests section has been changed to the above statement.

COMMENT: "Authors’ contributions - Please add the following statement at the end of the Authors contributions: ‘All authors read and approved the final manuscript.’"
RESPONSE: We have added the requested statement.

COMMENT: "Tables - We are unable to display shading and colours within the tables. Can we therefore ask you to use another method of highlighting the shaded text e.g. by making it bold."

RESPONSE: We have removed the shading at the top of Table 1, and adjusted the font in the header row to be consistent with that in Table 2.

COMMENT: "Figures - It is important for the final layout of the manuscript that the figures are cropped as closely as possible to minimise white space around the image. Our online figure cropping guide may be of some help, and can be viewed here: http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/ifora/cropping."

RESPONSE: We applied the cropping technique described in your guide to all three Figures.