Author's response to reviews

Title: Clearing up the hazy road from bench to bedside. A framework for integrating the fourth hurdle into translational medicine

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Besides the formatting requirements provided by the BioMed Central Editorial Production Team, the references were checked and updated if necessary. One recent reference was added and two redundant references were deleted.

On page 7 in the sentence “(7) Typically, there are different stakeholders (e.g. doctors or patient groups) to the decision who may be involved formally or informally in the decision process”, “which” was replaced by “who”.

Additionally, in line with an update of the reference, the sentence “In 2007, its total expenses for health services amounted to €144 billion [23]” the term “budget” was replaced by “total expenses for health services” and the year 2005 to 2007.