Author's response to reviews

Title: B-Mode Ultrasound Common Carotid Artery Intima-Media Thickness and External Diameter: Cross-Sectional and Longitudinal Associations with Carotid Atherosclerosis in a Large Population Sample

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Author's response to reviews:

February 18, 2008

Re: MS 75254480111804263

Dear Dr. Picano:

We are pleased that you have accepted our manuscript entitled “B-Mode Ultrasound Common Carotid Artery Intima-Media Thickness and External Diameter: Cross-Sectional and Longitudinal Associations with Carotid Atherosclerosis in a Large Population Sample” pending revisions. We found the review extremely helpful and have incorporated the reviewer’s suggestions as follows:

Reviewer suggestion 1) to include a figure that show the 4 main patterns described and include the original figure 1 as figure 2.

We have incorporated a new figure 1 that schematically represents the arterial phenotypes that are discussed in the manuscript as suggested by the reviewer. We used slightly different terminology than suggested to assure accurate representation of the current study. The old figure 1 is now figure 2.

Reviewer suggestion 2) In the Discussion, I would again emphasize this very important message showing schematically the 4 patterns with the indication of relative risk.

The discussion has been completely rewritten to focus on the associations with the arterial phenotypes. We have reduced the information provided regarding the changes in strength of associations for the continuous measures with adjustment, and only briefly refer to the associations for the continuous measures.
in the discussion. These changes have also been incorporated in the abstract of
the manuscript which has lengthened the abstract. We think the focus on the
arterial phenotypes has greatly strengthened the manuscript.

Searching on terms listed by the reviewer led to the discovery of new references
which have been incorporated. To include the new references several less
directly relevant references have been deleted. We have converted the tables
into portrait style so that the tables are now included as an integral part of the
document. We have added the specific contributions of each co-author to the
document. A few additional minor changes have been made that we think clarify
the study. The bulk of the work on the manuscript was done while the first author
was at the UAMS COPH and that is the affiliation that is listed on the manuscript.

We appreciate the extremely helpful review and feel the manuscript has been
improved immensely by incorporation of the suggestions. We hope the
manuscript is now acceptable for publication.

Sincerely,
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