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:

March 4, 2008

Re: MS 75254480111804263

Dear Dr. Picano:

We are pleased that the manuscript has been accepted for publication and we have completed the requested formatting changes:

1) We changed the title capitalization to that of sentence case.
2) We removed qualifications.
3) We have reformatted the affiliations
4) We placed the email addresses of co-authors together following the corresponding author information.
5) We have removed the word, figure, and table counts.
6) We have removed the keywords.
7) We have removed cover title.
8) We will assure the abstracts agree.
9) The figure legends have been placed after the references. The titles have been shortened to 15 words or less and the remainder of the information has been placed in the figure legends which have been reworded to do so.
10) Figures: In order to crop the figures, they have been redone in power point with the margins set to minimize white space. Figure 2 was redone to move the text from the right side to the left to reduce excess white space and part A and B have been lettered to clarify the two components. The figure legends describing the parts of the figure have been revised as stated above.
As suggested, we reviewed and found several additional changes. Since page numbers have changed, the changes are listed by the final proof page numbers:

1) In Table 1, values had been rounded to fit in a portrait format and some numbers were corrected in the last 5 rows. The footnotes relating to those rows were shortened.

2) On page 4, the number of participants in the full ARIC study (n=15792) was added to the first sentence under study sample.

3) On page 5, on line 14, kg was replaced by kilograms. The last sentence on the page was revised and split into two sentences with the sentence ending on page 6, being reworded to include "CCA, the right-sided measures were primary and the left-sided measures were secondary."

4) On page 7, we added "before the median values on lines 5 and 6 of the second paragraph to clarify enlargement."

5) On page 9, last line of first paragraph, "did not remain" was changed to "became nonsignificant."

6) Beginning on line 2 of page 11, the first paragraph had the following changes which are highlighted:

   For women, isolated enlargement of RCCA IMT or diameter (measure in the upper 50th percentile) did not produce a significant increase in risk of developing a carotid lesion; but for men, isolated RCCA IMT enlargement did result in significantly increased risk of developing a carotid lesion compared to men with neither parameter enlarged. Similarly, when enlargement was based on the upper 50th percentiles"

7) On page 11, line 8 of the second paragraph, "findings" was replaced by "associations."

8) On page 12, last paragraph, the words "As reviewed," was added to start the first sentence.

9) On the first line of page 13, "arterial phenotype" and "with lower flow" was added to line 16.

10) On page 14, the sentence beginning the second line was reworded as "Thus, the expected IMT and diameter values to which the observed values are compared are likely to be free of the effect of major risk factors and so represent ideal values expected for someone of similar age, gender, height, and race."

11) On page 15, second sentence of the final paragraph, "The" was changed to "A" and "normal" was changed to "the reference." On the 2nd line a space was removed at the end of the line and on the third line, "methodologic" was replaced by "methodological."

12) On page 16, the author contributions were combined and shortened.

13) We have changed all phrases "intima media" to "intima-media."

We appreciate your help in finalizing our manuscript for publication.
Sincerely,
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