Author's response to reviews

Title: Mapping global health research investments, time for new thinking - A Babel Fish for research data.

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Version: 2 Date: 2 August 2012

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Both reviewers supported the premise of the paper, the problem that it identifies and the potential automated translation has for improving the situation. There were no recommendations for significant revisions.

There were some concerns about how the HRCS is represented in the third paragraph of the section headed: A kaleidoscope of R & D classification systems. These have been addressed by a change in the text acknowledging the use of the HRCS by a number of countries. The difficulties of manual coding and integrating different systems used by funders is described more generically and it is made clear this is not a problem that is only limited to the use of HRCS.

The paper deliberately does not make too many concrete statement about next steps as these are being explored currently and, rather than endorse one approach (HRCS), we are still open to exploring different approaches.

It is worth noting that two of the authors RFT and LA were part of the EMRC expert working group and will continue to be part of that initiative.