Author’s response to reviews

Title: Building research capital to facilitate research

Authors:

Gill Green (gillgr@essex.ac.uk)
Melanie Rein (melanie.rein@btinternet.com)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editors

Please find the revised version of the manuscript ‘Building research capital to facilitate research’.

We have incorporated all the suggestions of the reviewers and these changes should be easily identifiable as they have been inserted using ‘track changes’. They include:

1) A little more context for an international audience. We have inserted a number of sentences in the introduction and an additional paragraph towards the end of the paper.

2) These additional sentences also clarify which groups of researchers benefit most from the support of the Research Design Service.

3) We have changed ‘ophthalmic surgeon’ to ‘hospital consultant’ to preserve anonymity.

4) We have added that the NIHR was set up by the Department of Health in England.

We have decided not to add a note about the AHSNs as these are not yet formally constituted and the link between the RDSs and the AHSNs is yet to be clarified.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Gill Green and Melanie Rein