Author’s response to reviews

Title: Predictive Models for Diabetes Mellitus Using Machine Learning Techniques

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Version: 3
Date: September 19, 2019

Authors’ Response to the Editor’s comments:

We would like to thank the Editor for your comments on our manuscript. Please see below our response to your comments.

1. In the "Ethics approval and consent to participate" section, please also provide the reason why ethics approval was waived.

   We have included the explanation in the manuscript from line 372 to 380.

Ethics approval was waived for the following reasons:

1. Ethics approvals were obtained from 10 University research ethics boards (REB) across Canada and from the Health Canada REB for initial extraction of the data.
2. The data has been fully anonymized using a special software (PARAT from Privacy Analytics) that de-identifies data and uses randomly allocated identifiers that cannot be linked to other datasets.

3. The data does not have any method of identifying people of Indigenous background.

2. Please consider the list of authors as it currently stands with reference to our guidelines regarding qualification for authorship "Currently, the contributions of authors HH and XG do not automatically qualify them for authorship. Please provide clarification on their contributions, or remove their names from the list of authors and place them in the “Acknowledgements” section instead."

We have already made the changes to the Authors’ contributions section.

3. All sources of funding for the research reported should be declared. If no funding was obtained for your study we still require the "Funding" section to be included with the statement “No funding was obtained for this study”.

We have added the statement “This research is partially supported by NSERC grant held by Gao.” under the "Funding" section.

4. Table 4, table 5, table 6, figure 3 and figure 4 have not been cited in the body of the manuscript. Please ensure that all tables and figures have been cited in the body of the manuscript.

We have cited Table 4 and Figure 3 on page 11; table 5 and table 6 on page 12; Figure 4 on page 15.

5. Please remove the response to reviewers attachment, as it is no longer required.

Yes, we have done so.

6. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

Yes, we have done so.

Thank you very much.