**Big Data Training in Global Health Education**

Reviewers Comments

1. Response rate was low

**Author’s response:** We agree that the response rate was low for this study; however, effort was made to increase the response rate. For instance, we worked with the Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) and sent five reminders to potential participants during the study period. The study period was also extended by one month.

2. Sample size (with respect to response rate) is not large enough to produce robust results.

**Author’s response:** In tandem with the above, the low sample size is a major limitation of this study; however, our main goal was to bring to the attention of educators in global health to the need to educate students in “big data” and increase the awareness.

3. It is not mentioned if the survey instrument is valid and reliable?

**Author’s response:** We have addressed the comment. We convened an expert panel consisting of global health educators, biostatisticians, and big data scientist to review the survey instrument. Subsequently, the validated survey instrument was piloted locally to identify aspects of the questionnaire that needed revision.

4. Between group differences (those who in university, public and private institutions or non-profit organizations) would better illustrate the study results.

**Author’s response**: It is a valuable suggestion and we agree with exploring the “between group differences” in participants’ response; however, we believe the low response rate/small sample size would impact the result and interpretation of such analysis.

5. References are not based on APA (6th edition).

**Author’s response:** Thank you for calling our attention to the references. We have addressed this comment

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6. Need to elaborate on the benefits of big data and use of big data in decision-making! Also, examples of how analysis of big data would be useful in global health would be helpful!

**Author’s response:** It is an invaluable suggestion. We have addressed this comment

7. A theoretical/conceptual framework may not be necessary for this exploratory descriptive study. However, the philosophical underpinnings of data-driven science need to be considered and an appropriate
theoretical/conceptual framework provided.

**Author’s response:** It is a valid discussion point. We agree that using a theoretical framework for this study would be valuable and has been included as a limitation of this study. Our goal, however, was to share our opinion regarding the need for “big data” education for students in global health. Conducting a survey was one of the methods the authors’ chose to highlight the issue, in addition to a brief review of the literature.

Might consider the use of a table to present the results of analysis.

**Author’s response:** Comment addressed