Genova, 20th of January, 2011

To the Editor of PLOS Computational Biology,

I would like to submit the enclosed article “The use of phonetic motor invariants can improve automatic phoneme discrimination” authored by myself, Leonardo Badino, Giorgio Metta, Giulio Sandini, Michele Tavella, Mirko Grimaldi and Luciano Fadiga.

I believe that the finding illustrated in the paper might be of high relevance for two communities. The speech recognition people might use our result as the beginning of a new strand of research, consisting of effectively isolating motor invariants and using them to improve phoneme discrimination. As well neuroscientists and speech perception theorists might find here a few more hints endorsing the hypothesis of the involvement of motor areas in speech perception, and of the motor theory of speech perception (or its evolution) in general.

I hope you will find our research suitable for publication.

Yours sincerely,

Claudio Castellini