Dear PLoS ONE editorial team,

We are excited to submit to you our manuscript entitled ‘The Ontology for Biomedical Investigation’ (OBI), which describes the ten year community development effort that has resulted in the creation of OBI. The paper explains the methods utilized in OBI’s development, design choices in modeling terms central to OBI, and describes practical applications of OBI.

We are submitting the present paper as a Research Article. It is meant to serve as the central reference for users of OBI. The previous publication serving this purpose was *Brinkman et al. Journal of Biomedical Semantics 2010*, which as of today has 197 citations in google scholar. The current principal update is needed as the initial (v.0.9) OBI version described in that paper is by now over six years old and the scope and design of OBI has significantly evolved since then.

We believe PLoS ONE is a very appropriate journal for our work due to the broad and interdisciplinary readership, and the fact that multiple related articles using OBI (e.g. Scheuermann et al, PLoS ONE, 2014 or Walls et al, PLoS ONE, 2014) have been published there.

We would suggest Pankaj Jaiswal as academic editor.

As OBI is a very collaborative effort, it can be challenging to identify expert reviewers that have not worked with any of the authors on the present paper. We believe the following reviewers, who have not directly contributed to OBI, could be potential good choices for reviewers:

* Chris Baker, University of New Brunswick, bakerc@unbsj.ca
* Darren Natale, Georgetown University Medical Center, dan5@georgetown.edu
* William Hogan, University of Florida, hoganwr@ufl.edu

We are not opposing any reviewers.

On behalf of the OBI consortium,

Bjoern Peters