Author's response to reviews

Title: A Retrospective Cohort Study of the Potency of Lipid-lowering Therapy and Race-gender Differences in LDL Cholesterol Control

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Version: 6 Date: 10 September 2011

Author's response to reviews: see over
September 10, 11

Tim Shipley, PhD
Executive Editor
BMC-series Journals
BioMed Central
Floor 6, 236 Gray's Inn Road
London, WC1X 8HL

RE: MS: 1732988266475576

Dear Dr Shipley:

We are pleased to resubmit our article A Retrospective Cohort Study of the Potency of Lipid-lowering Therapy and Race-gender Differences in LDL Cholesterol Control to BMC Cardiovascular Disorders, to BMC Cardiovascular Disorders. We have revised the manuscript to address the issues raised by the editors (we found no changes to make based on reviewer comments). Below we give a point-by-point description of how we addressed the editors’ suggestions. Changed in the manuscript are highlighted in red.

As we mentioned before, this article has not been published or submitted to any other journal and represents an original contribution by all 4 authors. We presented an earlier version of the manuscript as a presentation at the 2009 SGIM Annual Meeting. The project was funded by Pfizer, Inc. through a grant to the University of Pennsylvania with a focus on studying factors that can affect quality of care for cardiovascular risk reduction for minorities and women. This project has produced related but entirely different publications about hypertensive and lipid-lowering therapy in your Journal as well as the Annals of Internal Medicine, the American Journal of Managed Care, and the American Journal of Hypertension. The paper clearly states all conflicts of interest. In the past three years, Dr. Turner has served as a consultant to the Betty Ford Foundation and had several grants funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She is now an employee of the University of Texas. Dr. Weiner was supported by Pfizer for this research project. Dr. Hollenbeak was a consultant to this project that was supported by Pfizer, Inc., and is also a consultant on another grant regarding smoking cessation supported by Pfizer, Inc. Mr Tang was a full time employee of Pfizer, Inc., at the time the study was conducted and has stock in the company.

All the authors have made substantial contributions to this manuscript including conceptualization of the project, analysis of the data (except for Mr. Tang), drafting of the paper, and final approval.

Sincerely yours,

Christopher S. Hollenbeak, PhD
Reviewer 1

There were no changes suggested by the reviewer.

Editors

Please include a 'Competing interests' section between the Conclusions and Authors' contributions. If there are none to declare, please write 'The authors declare that they have no competing interests'.

We have added a Competing Interest section between the Discussion section and the Author Contribution section. The only competing interest we have is that the study was funded by Pfizer, and one author (ST) was an employee of Pfizer at the time the study was conducted. None of the co-authors have non-financial competing interests.

Please include an Authors' contributions section before the Acknowledgements and Reference list.

We have added an Authors’ contributions section, following the recommended format.

We strongly encourage you to include an Acknowledgements section between the Authors’ contributions section and Reference list. Please acknowledge anyone who contributed towards the study by making substantial contributions to conception, design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data, or who was involved in drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content, but who does not meet the criteria for authorship.

All contributors who participated in the study met the qualifications for authorship. There are no other participants to include in the Acknowledgements section.