Author's response to reviews

Title: An Exploration of Different Methods to Promote the Enrollment of Black Subjects to a Large Cohort Study

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To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to resubmit our manuscript entitled “An Exploration of Different Methods to Promote the Enrollment of Black Subjects to a Large Cohort Study” a NIH funded study for submission to BMC Medical Research Methodology. This submission is exclusive to the BMC.

The Black/African American population is an understudied and poorly represented group in the literature for a number of reasons. One is their mistrust of researchers, another is many of them do not perceive an immediate benefit for their participation. In addition many are fearful of history repeating itself where Blacks were abused and misrepresented in past research studies. Thus, researchers have found it extremely difficult to convince large numbers of Blacks to participate in research studies. Our article describes our success in encouraging nearly 48,000 to enrol in our study, and nearly 26,000 who actually followed through and actively participated in our study. We describe various methods and incentives we used to get this large number of people to go outside their comfort zones and trust that their efforts would be rewarded in some way.

We believe that our manuscript will help to fill a deficiency in the literature, and will give other researchers some ideas as to what they too can do to get minorities and other populations to participate in their studies.

We chose this journal because we were told by Proel Hennessy Vargas from the Journal Editorial Office of BMC Public Health that BMC Medical Research Methodology would be a better fit for our article, and we agreed.

There were three areas of concern that have now been addressed. First, we needed to add an Ethics Statement to the Methods section. The statement has been added and appears on page 11. Secondly, we needed to add a Competing Interest section after the conclusion. It has been inserted and is on page 17. Lastly, we needed to have the paper edited by a native speaker of English. This has been done.
Thank you for the opportunity to resubmit our manuscript to your journal. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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