Author's response to reviews

Title: African-American Inflammatory Bowel Disease in a Southern U.S. Health Center

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr Zauner,

Thank you for your note. We have been wondering why we had no response. I think Dr. Jordan expected me to also be receiving CC on this correspondence. We have now revised our study as requested.

Regarding our study: African-American Inflammatory Bowel Disease in a Southern U.S. Health Center by Veluswamy et al., I would like to provide in this cover letter a point-by-point response to the reviewers and your concerns.

1. We have now clearly stated in the ‘Methods section’ of the manuscript that the study has been approved by an appropriate ethics committee and includes the full name of the committee that gave approval.

2. We have now revised our title page. This now lists: the title of the article, include an accurate, clear and concise description of the reported work, avoiding abbreviations; and the full names, institutional addresses, and e-mail addresses for all authors. The corresponding author is now indicated.

3. The abstract is now structured according to the guidelines provided at the link below:
   http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/ifora/abstracts

4. The 'Competing interests' section between the Conclusions and Authors' contributions has been completed. There were none to declare, so we have written 'The authors declare that they have no competing interests'.

5. We have now included an Authors' contributions section before the Acknowledgements and Reference list.

6. We have included an Acknowledgements section between the Authors’ contributions section and Reference list. We acknowledged all who contributed towards the study through contributions to concept, 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.

7. We have listed the source(s) of funding for the study, for each author, and for the manuscript preparation in the acknowledgements section. Authors must describe the role of the funding body, if any, in study design; in the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data; in the writing of the manuscript; and in the decision to submit the manuscript for publication.

8. We have revised the structure of the Reference section by following these guidelines:
   http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcgastroenterol/ifora/#references.

9. We have also highlighted (with yellow colored background), all changes made when revising the manuscript.

10. Our revised manuscript conforms to the journal style (http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/ifora/medicine_journals).

11. We have uploaded our cover letter and revised manuscript through