Author's response to reviews

Title: The Prevalence, Incidence and Natural History of Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis in an Ethnically Diverse Population

Authors:

Elaine Toy (elainetoy@hotmail.com)
Sripriya Balasubramanian (priya_n@yahoo.com)
Carlo Selmi (cfselmi@ucdavis.edu)
Chin-Shang Li (cssli@phs.ucdavis.edu)
Christopher L Bowlus (clbowlus@ucdavis.edu)

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Maria Kowalczuk, PhD
Deputy Biology Editor
BMC-series Journals

RE: MS: 1182995889542738

Dear Dr. Kowalczuk,

We are pleased to submit our revision to *BMC Gastroenterology* our manuscript entitled “The Prevalence, Incidence and Natural History of Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis in an Ethnically Diverse Population.” We appreciate the efforts of the reviewers to help us strengthen our manuscript and believe that we have adequately addressed the concerns of the reviewers below and in our revised manuscript.

Dr. Tischendorf noted the lack of ethnic/race data on a large subset of our cohort and recommended that this be addressed in our discussion. In response, we have added text in the discussion where we note the limitations of the study. Specifically, we address his concern with the following:

“The lack of ethnic and racial data in a large subset of patients limited our ability to address risk assessment or determination of prognostic factors for the natural course of disease dependent on race.”

Dr. Card recommended that we address the lower rate of IBD in our population as has been found in another recent study. We recognize this point and agree that this may be the case, but we are hesitant to push this issue due to the lack of complete colonoscopy data on all cases. As we state in the discussion, the rate of IBD in our cohort may be underestimated.

We look forward to any additional comments that you or the reviewers may have.

Sincerely,

Christopher L. Bowlus
Associate Professor
Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology