Author's response to reviews

Title: Assessment of vaccine candidates for persons 50 and older: a review

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Jessica Sautter,

April the 3th 2013

Enclosed please find the manuscript, ‘Assessment of vaccine candidates in elderly: a review’. I respectfully resubmit this revised paper to BMC Geriatrics in the hope that the editorial issues raised are correctly addressed. On behalf of all authors, I will provide a point-by-point response.

Editorial issue 1:

This has been corrected: ‘elderly people’ is changed in ‘ older persons’.

Editorial issue 2:
Page 3, 2nd paragraph from bottom: ?The aim of this review?? is not consistent with Page 5, 1st paragraph ?The purpose of this review was?.?. I think one should be sufficient. Otherwise, the readers will be confused. In a rare case where you stick to applying the aim/purpose to two places, use different phrases yet with the SAME purpose/aim.

We agree that it is confusing; we chose to delete the purpose mentioned on page 5.

Editorial issue 3:
Please correct ?persons 50 and older? to ?persons aged 50 and older.?. I have misunderstood Editor?s comment on this correction.

We are sorry for the misunderstanding. ‘Persons 50 years and older’ is corrected to ‘ persons aged 50 years and older’. Also, to improve the consistence, age periods are now consistently represented throughout the manuscript as ‘ xx years to xx years’.

Please apply the same format to presentation of a period. I suggest using 2006-2007 instead of 2006-7. Please correct all such inconsistencies.

All these inconsistencies are corrected. We chose to use 2006-2007 instead of 2006-7.

Editorial issue 4:
Like other abbreviations, GP should be spelt out at the first time when it appears in the text.

This has been addressed: GP is now spelled out the first time it appears in the text. All other abbreviations have also been checked whether they are spelled out the first time they appear in the text.
Editorial issue 5:
In Reference Section, please provide the exact date that you accessed to the Internet links.

_The exact date on which the internet links were accessed are added to the reference page._

Editorial issue 6:
Figure 3: Title should be changed to “Notifications for pertussis from 2000 to 2011 for persons aged 50 years and older.” Please also make sure the last year (2011 or 2012). If 2011 is the last year, please drop 2012 in Figure 3.

_The title of figure 3 is changed to: Notifications for pertussis from 2000 to 2011 for persons aged 50 years and older. The last year is 2011, therefore 2012 is dropped in the figure._

Editorial issue 7:
Legends in Figure 2 and Figure 3: They are not necessary. Please consider dropping them unless they are required in manuscript preparation by the journal.

_In the ‘instruction for authors’of BMC Geriatrics it says:_

‘Figure legends
The legends should be included in the main manuscript text file at the end of the document, rather than being a part of the figure file. For each figure, the following information should be provided: Figure number (in sequence, using Arabic numerals - i.e. Figure 1, 2, 3 etc); short title of figure (maximum 15 words); detailed legend, up to 300 words.’

_Therefore, the legends were kept in the manuscript._

Editorial issue 8:
Please change "Central Office for Statistics Netherlands [CBS]" to "Statistics Netherlands [CBS]." There is no phrase in English for "Central Office for Statistics Netherlands." According to the CBS website, the correct English name for the Netherlands' CBS is "Statistics Netherlands."

_This has been addressed: "Central Office for Statistics Netherlands [CBS]" has been changed to "Statistics Netherlands [CBS]."_

We hope that we have responded to your comments sufficiently and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Renske Eilers