Author's response to reviews

Title: The Burden and Treatment of HIV in Tuberculosis Patients In Papua Province, Indonesia: A Prospective Observational Study

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The Editor,
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Dear Editor,

Re: The Burden and Treatment of HIV in Tuberculosis Patients In Papua Province, Indonesia: A Prospective Observational Study
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Thank you for considering this manuscript for publication as an original research article in *BMC Infectious Diseases*.

This paper is the first to document the escalating burden of TB-HIV co-infection in Indonesia’s Papua Province. TB-HIV co-infection is among the leading current public health issues affecting Indonesia, the world’s 4th most populous nation. An emerging epidemic of HIV in Indonesia’s Papua Province is of major concern. Published data on TB-HIV co-infection from both Papua Province and neighboring Papua New Guinea are currently extremely limited. Unique advantages of this paper include our ability to examine longitudinal trends, and to report epidemiological differences between the two major ethnic groups (Indigenous Papuans and Non-Papuan Indonesians) in this province.

Our paper highlights the urgent need for operational research into TB-HIV guideline implementation to improve HIV care in this province, particularly amongst the Indigenous Papuan population. Importantly, we document poor access to antiretroviral drugs and poor practitioner adherence to WHO HIV-TB treatment guidelines.

This is original work which has not been submitted in part or full for publication elsewhere.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Anna Ralph
on behalf of all manuscript authors