Author's response to reviews

Title: Modeling the variations in pediatric respiratory syncytial virus seasonal epidemics

Authors:

Molly Leecaster (molly.leecaster@hsc.utah.edu)
Per Gesteland (per.gesteland@hsc.utah.edu)
Tom Greene (tom.greene@hsc.utah.edu)
Nephi Walton (nephi.walton@utah.edu)
Adi Gundlapalli (adi.gundlapalli@hsc.utah.edu)
Robert Rolfs (rrolfs@utah.gov)
Carrie Byington (carrie.byington@hsc.utah.edu)
Matthew Samore (matthew.samore@hsc.utah.edu)

Version: 3 Date: 7 February 2011

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editorial Staff and Reviewers,

This letter is in response to comments on Modeling the Variations in Pediatric Respiratory Syncytial Virus Seasonal Epidemics by Molly Leecater, et al.

The one revision required by the editor regarding approval by an ethics committee has been addressed, the following sentence was added to the methods section. “This study was reviewed by the Institutional Review Boards of Intermountain Healthcare and the University of Utah and determined by both organizations to be exempt.” Also, the manuscript now conforms to the journal style.

We have responded to the two outstanding minor revisions from the reviewer both in the text of the paper and in our responses below.

1. We have attempted to remove all explicit references to a linear relationship – please let us know if we have not. We have included additional text indicating that determination of the type of relationship among characteristics was not possible with only 7 data points.

3. We have added text indicating the assumptions of the SIC. The residuals were autocorrelated, a fact we honestly simply forgot to include. This was the reason, as well as because it was just good practice, we used more than one measure for model selection. Table 4 has been reformatted to clarify the use of the multiple measures. The $M_j$ were the square root of the squared terms, so using $M_j^2$ was used to simplify the equations for the RSE and RMSE, eliminating the need to write them again.

We are grateful to the reviewer for his careful work and time in helping make this a better paper and to the editor for his diligence and patience while we revised the paper.

Sincerely,

Molly Leecaster