Author’s response to reviews

Title: Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) types Western blot (WB) band profiles as potential surrogate markers of HIV disease progression and predictors of vertical transmission in a cohort of infected but antiretroviral therapy naïve pregnant women in Harare, Zimbabwe

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor

Thank you for reviewing our manuscript ID MS: 7764721783949173 entitled “Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) types Western blot (WB) band profiles as potential surrogate markers of HIV disease progression and predictors of vertical transmission in a cohort of infected but antiretroviral therapy naïve pregnant women in Harare, Zimbabwe”

All reviewers’ comments have been addressed in line with their suggestions as detailed below including formatting the article to conform to your journal style.

A. Major Revisions

Authors List

• Title Page
  o Authors’ names have been re-listed to suit your journal style starting with “First name, Initial, Surname” as suggested.
• “Author Contribution” section
  o Authors’ initials have also been re-written in compliance with your journal format beginning with “First name initial, Middle name initial and Surname initial”

We have relabeled previously Table 2 to now read “Table 1” and previously Table 1 to now read “Table 2” to ensure that both tables are cited in numerical
order in the manuscript. We have also made necessary changes in reference to these tables under “Results section.”

B. Minor Revisions

• We have removed all highlighting and tracking from the entire manuscript.

• Background

“Introduction section” has been renamed 'Background' as suggested in both the abstract and the manuscript.

• Methods

“Methodology section” renamed 'Methods ' in both the abstract and the manuscript.

• Tables

The visible vertical lines have been removed from both the two tables.

• Typography

We have checked for typographical errors in the manuscript.

Thank you for all the comments and corrections. We hereby re-submit the article to your journal only. The revised manuscript has been reviewed and approved by co-authors. We hope the revised manuscript is now suitable for publication in your journal.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Kerina Duri