Author’s response to reviews

Title: Epidemiology of serotype 19A isolates from invasive pneumococcal disease in German children

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Dr. Manibo,

Please find attached our revised manuscript entitled ‘Epidemiology of serotype 19A isolates from invasive pneumococcal disease in German children’ which we wish to submit as a research article to ‘BMC Infectious Diseases’.

Following your instructions in your email from October 3, 2012 we have made following changes to the manuscript:

**Request for ethics statement.**

Since our study does not involve human subjects, material, or data, but only recultivated bacteria sent to our national reference center from microbiological laboratories, an ethical approval is not required. If I remember well, we have gone over this in one of our previously submitted manuscripts.

We have added the following statement to the Materials section:

Ethical Statement

An ethical approval was not required since the study did not involve human subjects, material or data.

**Request for Authors Contribution section.**

We have added the following section to the manuscript.

Authors’ contributions

WK provided the data on antibiotic usage, performed the statistical analysis and helped to draft the manuscript. MI, RRR and ML participated in the laboratory analyses. RRR and ML conceived the study. ML drafted the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

**Request for Competing Interest section.**

We have added the following section to the manuscript.
Competing interests
ML has been a member of advisory boards for and has received research grants and speakers honorary fees from Pfizer, GSK, Merck and SanofiPasteurMSD. RR is currently an employee of Pfizer pharmaceuticals. MI and WK report no competing interests.

We hope that with these changes our manuscript can be considered for peer review.

Sincerely yours,

Mark van der Linden