**Author's response to reviews**

**Title:** Older age does not influence CD4 cell recovery in HIV-1 infected patients receiving Highly Active Anti Retroviral Therapy.

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**Author's response to reviews:** see over
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Dear Editor,

This communication will serve as our response to the critical comments regarding the manuscript entitled “Older age does not influence CD4 cell recovery in HIV-1 infected patients receiving Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy” (Manuscript 1288593109290465), submitted to *BMC Infectious Diseases*. We have carefully read the helpful comments of reviewer 2 and have either modified the text accordingly or addressed the concerns of the reviewer in the text of this letter, as detailed below. Each revised sentence has been indicated according to page and line, as it appears in the text.

As requested we have modified the manuscript according to the specific formatting checklist.

**Reviewer’s 2 comments**

**Major compulsory revisions**

1. The Discussion section has been widely revised and new sentences have been added (page 13 lines 23-24, page 14 lines 6-10 and 22-25, page 15 lines 1, 6-10 and 15-19, page 16 line 13). In addition, a literature update has been performed (see references 37, 41, 42,43).
2. We have clearly indicated in Figures 1, 2 and 3 number of valid cases, mean and SD values for all time-points both for cases and controls.

3. Figure 3: we apologise for the inaccurate data presentation. We have corrected commas in dots for decimals and specified “log 10”.

4. The 1:2 ratio used for inclusion of cases and controls is maintained also throughout the follow-up.

Minor essential revisions
See above point 2

In closing, on behalf of my colleagues and myself, I would like to express our appreciation for the reviewers' critical comments and suggestions for this manuscript and very much hope that, in the present format, our scientific effort fulfils the criteria for publication in *BMC Infectious Diseases*.

Sincerely Yours

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