Author’s response to reviews

Title: HIV, HSV-2 and syphilis among pregnant women in a rural area of Tanzania: Prevalence and risk factors

Authors:

Khadija I Yahya-Malima (khadija.malima@cih.uib.no)
Bjorg Evjen-Olsen (bjorg.olsen@cih.uib.no)
Mecky I Matee (mateerr@yahoo.com)
Knut Fylkesnes (knut.fylkesnes@cih.uib.no)
Lars Haarr (lars.haarr@vir.uib.no)

Version: 5 Date: 16 April 2008

Author’s response to reviews:

The Editor
BMC Infectious Diseases
15th April 2008

Dear Sir/ Madam

Re: Review and resubmission of a revised manuscript MS: 1991897168153309 renamed as “HIV, HSV-2 and syphilis among pregnant women in a rural area of Tanzania: Prevalence and risk factors”

We have added in the manuscript, the ethical approval that was sought at individual level. We would like to share with you the practical use of oral informed consent in Tanzania. In Tanzania, 70% of the population live in rural areas, and this was a rural study. In this area, approximately 30% of the adult population are illiterate and it is always necessary to prepare ethical approval forms for both written and oral consent. We prepared both but used an oral informed consent form that explained the participant’s rights to participate or refuse in the research. Our observation was that an oral informed consent was preferred as long it was clearly understood and if National, regional and district administrative approval is documented and shown. To reach the population, we first had to have meetings with village members through the village council, purposes of research were explained, and many clarifications are normally given at these meetings. That is always necessary before introducing the research at the Antenatal clinics. We hope that this information is sufficient to give you the picture.

Sincerely

Khadija I. Yahya-Malima

Corresponding author: Khadija I. Yahya-Malima