Author's response to reviews

Title: Childhood TB epidemiology and treatment outcomes in Thailand: a TB Active Surveillance Network, 2004 to 2006

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Dear Sir:

Please find enclosed an original research article, “Childhood TB epidemiology and treatment outcomes in Thailand – TB Active Surveillance Network, 2004–2006,” for consideration in the *BMC Infectious Diseases Journal*. Reasons why this manuscript should be published in *BMC Infectious Diseases Journal* include:

- Childhood TB is an important public health problem, because treating TB infection and disease in children can also provide long-term benefits to TB control, preventing future cases due to reactivation. Nevertheless, national TB programs in high-burden TB countries invest very few resources in childhood TB.

- Few epidemiologic studies of childhood TB have been published from Asia. The vast majority of studies about childhood TB are from industrialized countries and South Africa. This study is the only population-based study about childhood TB epidemiology and treatment outcomes in Asia, a region that contributes to one-half of the global TB burden.

- Thailand ranks 17th on WHO’s list of high-burden TB countries and has a generalized HIV epidemic. Notification rates for childhood TB in Thailand are markedly lower than in other countries. In this manuscript, we analyzed data from...
a multi-province demonstration project to understand characteristics, treatment outcomes, and risk factors for death and default in childhood TB cases in Thailand.

This letter serves as acknowledgment that all authors have read and approved the submitted manuscript. This manuscript represents an original effort. It has not been presented or published elsewhere. The study was reviewed by the Thailand Ministry of Public Health and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and found to be surveillance and public health program implementation not requiring oversight by a human subjects research institutional review board. The authors declare that they have no competing interests. The authors agree that if the manuscript is accepted for publication, the data from this manuscript will be freely available to any scientist wishing to use them for non-commercial purposes.

We appreciate your kind consideration of this manuscript for publication in The BMC Infectious Disease Journal.

Sincerely

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