Author's response to reviews

Title: Herpes simplex virus type 2 seroprevalence and risk factors among men who have sex with men from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: a cross-sectional study

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Dear Editor
BMC Infectious Diseases

We hereby submit the second revised version of the manuscript “Seroprevalence and factors associated with herpes simplex virus type 2 among HIV-negative high-risk men who have sex with men from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: a cross-sectional study” as a research article to the BMC Infectious Diseases.

We also provide a response to the two comments raised by the three reviewers. We thank the reviewers for their comments. We are confident to have answered all comments successfully.

Regarding the ethical approval, because the cohort is no longer active, we could not re-consent the study subjects with regards to the use of the stored serum samples. Instead, we submitted the study to IPEC’s IRB. The IRB analyzed the project and granted the investigator permission to use the stored samples obtained at enrollment of ‘Projeto Rio’. Samples were re-coded in order to guarantee patient confidentiality. This procedure complies with the National Health Council ethical regulation.

We have added to the manuscript the sentence below, which describes the written consent obtained from the Ethics Committee in order to conduct the study.

"Written approval was obtained from the Ethics Committee of IPEC, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, Rio de Janeiro, in order to conduct the HSV-2 serological test
on the stored sera. This procedure complies with the National Health Council regulation on research conducted on stored samples."

All authors have read and approved the final version of this manuscript. This manuscript is original and has not, and will not, be submitted to any other journal while under consideration by BMC Infectious Diseases.

Sincerely,

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