Author's response to reviews

Title: Familial hypercholesterolemia in St.-Petersburg: the known and novel mutations found in the low density lipoprotein receptor gene in Russia

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Editors,

Thank you very much for useful hints to improve our Summary and for corrections of the mistakes during manuscript preparation.

Below is given the list of changes in the manuscript (most suggested by the Editorial):

1. Title of the manuscript is corrected to avoid using of acronym LDL. Instead the full word - low density lipoprotein receptor - is given. Second, word Russia is included into the title to avoid mixing of Russian and multiple North American cities with the same name St.-Petersburg and to fit for search by Internet engines.

2. Full author's names are given now in the title. Initial for Mandelshtam must be Y (and NOT YU), and right forename for Golubkov is Valery (and NOT Valeriy). Full stops after initials in the title were removed.

3. Authors affiliations are checked and renumbered. Full affiliations now are given as required. Institute of Experimental Medicine is better to write instead 'for Experimental Medicine'.

4. Abstract was completely rewritten to expand Background as suggested and to stress Conclusions. No data changes were done; however, style was corrected to fit the Rules for the Authors of BMC Medical Genetics.

5. All unnecessary capitalizations of titles in the text were removed, as required.

6. Materials and Methods were renamed and now sound as 'Methods'.

7. All references in the text now cited in square brackets as required.

8. Several non-essential words in the main text were changed, so far the text was also minimally changed. References to Table 2 were included in the additional places of the text.

9. Phrase 'The authors declare that they have no competing interests' was included. We have no financial or non-financial competing interests and attentively looked through full list of questions.

10. References to Websites were changed in both Tables and now these are in concise form, i.e. all are given by numerals in square brackets. Titles of Web sites were re-checked and are correct.

11. In Reference sections all full stops were removed from Journal titles.
12. In Reference sections journal volumes are changed to bold script, as required by Rules for the authors. Human Mutation journal is now cited uniformly as Hum Mutat as in PubMed. When papers are available only in Russian it is indicated.

13. Word USA was rewritten in Reference 13 as required: U S A.
14. Footnote for tables 1, 2 and 3 were included to enable read of acronyms in the title of columns. HA as the rapid test method instead of sizing for G197del mutation in Table 1 was included.

Please, pay attention not to split each Table between two pages.

I wish you all the best in coming New Year and hope to see our paper published in the BMC Medical Genetics.

Sincerely yours,
Faina M. Zakharova