

**Author’s response to reviews**

**Title:** The rationale and design of Insight into Nephrotic Syndrome: Investigating Genes, Health and Therapeutics (INSIGHT): a prospective cohort study of childhood nephrotic syndrome

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**Author’s response to reviews:** see over
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Dear Editors,

I am writing to submit a revision to our manuscript, The rationale and design of Insight into Nephrotic Syndrome: Investigating Genes, Health and Therapeutics (INSIGHT): a prospective cohort study of childhood nephrotic syndrome. This manuscript is being submitted for review and possible publication in BMC Nephrology.

Nephrotic syndrome has an estimated incidence of 2-7 per 100,000 children worldwide, and treatment-resistant forms of nephrotic syndrome can lead to complete scarring of the kidney, resulting in end-stage renal disease. Unfortunately, there are a limited number of studies on children with nephrotic syndrome with long-term follow up, and very limited literature on the socio-demographic, clinical, environmental, and genetic modifiers of treatment response and disease progression. Thus, we have a limited understanding of factors influencing disease susceptibility, treatment response, and disease progression.

This manuscript describes the study design of a new, longitudinal cohort study with five years of follow-up on a multi-ethnic group of children with nephrotic syndrome in Toronto, Canada. INSIGHT will have robust data collection including information on socio-demographic, environmental, clinical and genetic factors, gathered through a combination of self-report questionnaires and biological specimens. The findings from this study may open doors for genetic screening of children who are at highest risk of treatment resistance and disease progression and the use of alternative treatment strategies for this group. We have revised our original submission to include greater detail on the power and sample size, as requested.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit the paper for review. We believe the paper addresses an important area of research with the goal of improving our understanding of nephrotic syndrome and ultimately reducing the morbidity associated with treatment and the mortality associated with disease progression. We look forward to your comments and reviews.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rulan S. Parekh