Author's response to reviews

Title: Racial and ethnic differences in primary, unscheduled cesarean deliveries among low-risk primiparous women at an academic medical center: a descriptive, retrospective cohort study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Dear Editorial team of *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth,*

Please find enclosed a manuscript entitled: "Racial and ethnic differences in primary, unscheduled cesarean deliveries among low-risk primiparous women at an academic medical center“, which we are submitting for exclusive consideration of publication as an original, research article in *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth.* All authors listed have contributed sufficiently to the project. To the best of our knowledge, no conflict of interest, financial or other, exists.

Our study addresses one of the most important public health issues in obstetrics: the prevalence of cesarean section. We provide a unique approach to this issue by focusing our study on low-risk primiparous women, who are at greatest risk for unplanned cesarean delivery. Our study is one of few to examine in detail the indications for primary cesarean section, in attempt to determine whether these indications differ among racial/ethnic groups. Although not the primary focus of our study, we also investigate potential trends in operative vaginal delivery among different racial/ethnic groups. We feel that our large sample size and diverse study population afford valuable insight into these issues, and provide the impetus for future study of racial/ethnic differences in labor progress and intrapartum obstetric interventions. This manuscript will be of interest to the scientific community interested in health equity and intrapartum care of childbearing women.

We appreciate your consideration of our work for publication in your journal and look forward to receiving the results of your review. Please address all correspondence concerning this manuscript to me at Boston College and feel free to correspond with me by e-mail joyce.edmonds@bc.edu or by phone at 617-552-2838.

Sincerely,

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