Author's response to reviews

Title: Prepregnancy Body Mass Index and Risk of Preterm Birth: Association Heterogeneity by Preterm Subgroups

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Dear Editorial Board:

Thank you for the opportunity to revise and resubmit for the second time, our manuscript, “Prepregnacy BMI and Risk of Preterm Birth: Association Heterogeneity by Preterm Subgroups” (MS 6043112371124714). In this letter we respond point by point to the critiques of the editors.

1. Title Page: Please remove author suffixes from your title page. Please also include all author emails on the title page.

We have completed both of these tasks.

2. Abstract: Please use the subheading `Methods¿ instead of `Study design¿ in your abstract

We have made this change.

3. Ethical Approval: Please provide in your methods section, a statement on ethical approval for the study. If ethical approval was not obtained, then please state this together with the reason why approval was not needed.

We have added a statement to the end of the first paragraph of our methods section: “The institutional review board provided ethical approval at Boston Medical Center.”

4. Author’s Contributions: Please reformat your author’s contributions section. Initials should be used instead of full names.

We added initials instead of full names and changed the format of this section in conjunction with the instructions provided. This section now states:

MP (corresponding author) was responsible for conception and design of this secondary analysis of a longitudinal cohort study, contributed to the statistical analysis, and was heavily involved in drafting and editing all versions of the manuscript. FO contributed to study design and performed all statistical analysis. CP coordinated all data collection and participant recruitment. XH and GW contributed to data collection and statistical analysis. MG, MB, BZ, FH, and XW contributed to the conception of the study. MG, MB, BZ, and XW contributed to the drafting and editing of the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

5. Questionnaire: please include a copy of your questionnaire as an Additional File, properly cited in the Methods section.
We have included a copy of the questionnaire and cited this in our methods section (second paragraph of the methods section.)

6. Please also ensure that your revised manuscript conforms to the journal style (http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/ifora/medicine_journals). It is important that your files are correctly formatted.

We have reviewed the instructions and believe that our manuscript conforms to the BioMed Central style.

Yours sincerely,
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