Author's response to reviews

Title: An evaluation of classification systems for stillbirth

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The Editors
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth
15th May 2009

Dear Editors,

Re: Revised Manuscript ID 5258706672175806 “An evaluation of classification systems for stillbirth”

Please accept the second revision of the above manuscript on behalf of myself and my co-authors. We would like to thank the reviewers for their additional helpful comments and trust that these comments have been adequately addressed.

The reviewer comments and our responses are as follows:

Jan Jaap Erwich March 5th 2009
• The comment relating to the suggested edit “Background: in 2, countries is missing after developing” could not be identified in the manuscript
• The word inferior has been replaced by suboptimal in the background, however we feel the word inferior is more appropriate within the context of its use in the discussion.

• We have addressed the comment relating the importance of placental pathology in being stressed in the text but not being in the conclusions by including a statement to this effect in the conclusions within the body of the manuscript.

Russell Kirby

• Regarding comments described by the reviewer as “Comments which may fall into the category of compulsory”:

• The reviewer suggested removing Figure 1 as all information within this figure is included in the text. We prefer to leave this figure in as we believe it will aid the reader in the interpretation of the results.

• We have undertaken one-way ANOVA of the variation in the proportion of unexplained stillbirth and included this in the results section.

• Regarding the comments listed under “minor edits”, we believe we have addressed these in the revised manuscript.

• With reference to the use of commas, we have followed the guide provided by the University of New England (www.une.edu.au) and hope that we have addressed the comment on the excessive use of commas throughout the manuscript.

We hope this revised manuscript will be reviewed favorably and look forward to a positive response on the outcome from BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth Editorial team.

Sincerely

A/Prof. Vicki Flenady on behalf of the investigators
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