Author's response to reviews

**Title:** A population-based cross-sectional study of colorectal cancer screening practices of first-degree relatives of colorectal cancer patients

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The Editor
BMC Cancer
Dear Sir or Madam,

Please find attached this original manuscript “A population-based examination of colorectal cancer screening practices of first-degree relatives of colorectal cancer patients” for consideration for publication as an original article in BMC Cancer. Neither this manuscript nor a version of it have been published – either in print or electronic form – or are being considered for publication elsewhere.

This study is particularly novel in its examination of risk appropriate colorectal cancer screening for first-degree relatives of those who already have the disease. This study, to our knowledge, is the first Australian investigation of such screening among first-degree relatives of CRC patients in accordance with screening guidelines for each level of risk. Internationally, little is known about whether this at-risk group adhere to risk-appropriate screening. Therefore, we believe that our manuscript is timely, will be of interest to your readers and has significant implications for research and practice into the prevention and early detection of colorectal cancer (CRC). This study examined within an Australian population-based sample of at-risk first-degree relative of CRC patients: (i) the proportion that had ever received any CRC testing in their lifetime (ii) the proportion screened in accordance with national screening guidelines for each level of risk and (iii) the individual and provider-level factors associated with outcomes (i) and (ii). Study findings indicated a significant level of under-screening among a high-risk population and a substantial level of inappropriate colonoscopy screening for first-degree relatives “at or slightly above average risk”. These findings highlight the pressing need for systematic approaches at a population-level to improve first-degree relatives of CRC patients’ risk-appropriate CRC screening participation.

We feel that BMC Cancer is the ideal vehicle for timely dissemination of our results to a wide audience.

The work embodied in this manuscript is original research conducted by the authors indicated on the title page. The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest. All authors have participated in study design, analysis and interpretation of the data and preparation or approval of the manuscript.

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We hope that the manuscript meets with your approval and look forward to receiving your response.

Yours Sincerely
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