Author’s response to reviews

Title: Mortality risk of black women and white women with invasive breast cancer by hormone receptors, HER2, and p53 status

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The Biomed Central Editorial Team:

Object: MS: 1688323170831939 - Mortality risk of black women and white women with invasive breast cancer by hormone receptors, HER2, and p53 status

We greatly appreciate the two reviewers’ comments. We have modified the manuscript according to the reviewers’ comments. All changes have been tracked. Below, we provide a detailed response to the comments from the two reviewers.

Reviewer #1 (Dr. Vincent Caggiano)

“Minor Revisions:

#1 - The revision provided by the authors is acceptable except that in the revised manuscript reference #19 is redundant. It is previously mentioned as reference #8. Additionally, the first author’s name is mispelled..it is Bauer not Beuer.”

• The reviewer is correct and we have deleted this reference (#19).
Reviewer #2: (Dr. Keith Dookeran)

On page 5: “the authors can use the term 'her2' type to refer to ER-/PR-/HER2+ status, which might allow easier reading.”

• We have used “HER2-enriched” to refer to “ER-/PR-/HER2+” subtype throughout this manuscript.

On page 7: “Use of the word 'white' is incorrect; it is non-AA.”

• We have replaced “black women” with “AA women”, and replaced “white women” with “non-AA women” for this reference. The same changes have been made on page 16.

On page 17: “Is this correct? Do the authors mean breast cancer-specific survival, which would correspond to the value reported in Table 2?”

• The reviewer is correct and we have changed “all cause” into “breast cancer-specific”.

Additional changes have been made as indicated by this reviewer on page 3, 4, 5, 7, and 19. In tables, “Triple negative” has been changed into “TN”.

In addition, we have formatted the manuscript according to the online format template.