Author's response to reviews

Title: Breast cancer epidemiology according to recognized breast cancer risk factors in the Prostate, Lung, Colorectal and Ovarian (PLCO) Cancer Screening Trial Cohort.

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Joseph Dunckley, Assistant Editor
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Re: MS. 8662431722064164

Dear Dr. Dunckley:

We are pleased to resubmit the revised version of our manuscript, "Breast cancer epidemiology according to recognized breast cancer risk factors in the Prostate, Lung, Colorectal, and Ovarian (PLCO) Cancer Screening Trial Cohort." with the minor essential modification requested by Referee #1. Specifically, the reviewer asked the following:

Minor essential revision: In the second to last paragraph of the discussion, rather than describing the differences between the study population and the US census population as "closely resembling", the authors should add the percentages provided in the covering letter without qualifying the comparison. They do not provide the cross tabulation of race AND education for both the study population and the census data, which would be most effective at convincing me that this group is not disproportionately white AND well-educated, but otherwise I would be satisfied with the treatment of the selection bias issue.

We’ve included the cross tabulation and note that the study population does not appear to be disproportionately white and well-educated; this is reflected in the following text that has been added to the discussion section:

Compared with 2001 U.S. Census Bureau data on women aged 55-74 [42], lower percentages of PLCO participants reported receiving some formal education beyond high school across all racial/ethnic groups: 58% vs. 53% for whites, 67% vs. 52% for African-Americans, and 57% vs. 52% for Asian/Pacific Islanders.

We welcome any additional questions you may have about our manuscript and we look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Respectfully,

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