Author's response to reviews

Title: Satellite clinics in academic ophthalmology programs

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Dear Editorial Board:

I respectfully submit “Survey of satellite clinics in academic ophthalmology programs” for consideration for publication in *BMC Ophthalmology*. This manuscript is a first glimpse into satellite practices in academic ophthalmology programs to detect common themes and programmatic issues that departments may encounter with such practices. The topics discussed have bearing on the academic mission of departments, including trainee education and faculty development.

I find very little peer-reviewed literature on this topic in academic medicine—and none in ophthalmology.

I was asked on Feb. 8 to revise the manuscript surrounding the following points:

1. Requesting Ethics Statement: Research was conducted by interviewing department chairs to obtain opinions and other data about their department. The Johns Hopkins Medicine Institutional Board X has determined that this research qualifies for an exemption under 45 Code of Federal Regulations 46.101(b) (attached).

2. The participants gave verbal consent to be interviewed by phone. Their anonymity was promised. They understood that their responses might be included in a publication.

3. Questionnaire was not tested for validity and reliability: This was a pilot study in an area that has been little examined—satellite clinics in academic ophthalmology departments. I believed obtaining opinions from department leaders regarding the questionnaire would offer a good “first glimpse” into satellite clinics.

4. Ensuring that the paper adheres to the RATS guideline for qualitative research: Changes were made in the body of the paper, especially stressing why interviews were conducted, guarantee of anonymity, and that this pilot study may be part of a larger research question relevant to ophthalmology clinical practice and organizational behavior.

I hope that this manuscript is of interest to your readership.

Sincerely,

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