Author's response to reviews

Title: The International Network for Evaluating Outcomes of very low birth weight, very preterm neonates (iNeo): A protocol for collaborative comparisons of international health services for quality improvement in neonatal care

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Dear Dr. Donovan,

Please find attached our manuscript entitled “The International Network for Evaluating Outcomes of very low birth weight, very preterm neonates (iNeo): A protocol for collaborative comparisons of international health services for quality improvement in neonatal care” for consideration for publication in *BMC Pediatrics*.

iNeo is a collaboration of population-based national neonatal networks, including Australia and New Zealand, Canada, Israel, Japan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the UK, that aims to improve outcomes for very low birth weight and very preterm infants both in the participating networks and globally. The manuscript describes the study protocol governing the activities iNeo will conduct between January 2013 and December 2017. During this 5-year period we will collect individual-level data from our member networks for the purposes of: 1) Comparative analysis of neonatal outcomes between networks to identify variations in outcomes; 2) Identification of variation in processes of care, service delivery, physical, environmental, human and policy factors that are associated with the variation in outcomes; and 3) Implementation and evaluation of practice changes to improve outcomes. The outcomes of the study should not only improve infant health in the iNeo countries, but also globally through dissemination of the knowledge generated. As such, we think you should consider publishing our manuscript so that details of the process we are following can be made known publically.

As the corresponding author on the study my contact information is included below. Each of the co-authors listed on the manuscript contributed to the substance of the work, has seen and approved the submission of the manuscript and takes full responsibility for the manuscript. The authors have no conflict of interest, real or perceived. I can also confirm that the manuscript has not been and will not be submitted to any other journal while it is under consideration by *BMC Pediatrics*. 
Should the manuscript be accepted for publication in the *BMC Pediatrics*, it will not be published elsewhere—either in similar form or verbatim—without permission of the editors of *BMC Pediatrics*. The study is being funded by a Canadian Institutes of Health Research Chair in Reproductive and Child Health Services and Policy Research held by me, with additional resources from participating networks as necessary and organizational support from the Maternal-Infant Care Research Centre, Toronto, Canada, which is supported by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

We thank you for taking the time to review our manuscript, and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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