Author’s response to reviews

Title: The Depression Network (DeNT) Study: methodology and sociodemographic characteristics of the first 470 affected sibling pairs from a large multi-site linkage genetic study.

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Dear Sir,

Re: The Depression Network (DeNT) Study: methodology and sociodemographic characteristics of the first 470 affected sibling pairs from a large multi-site linkage genetic study. Farmer et al.

We are pleased to submit a revised version of the above paper. We are most grateful to the referees for their helpful comments about our text which we have addressed as follows.

Reviewer ABN asks us to include a table detailing the co-morbidity with anxiety disorders. We have already published the results of a factor analysis of the depression and anxiety symptoms taken from the SCAN ratings for the worst and second worst episodes of depression for the same subjects (Korszun et al 2003 Archives of General Psychiatry 61 5 468-474). One of the factors obtained from these analyses was an "anxiety symptoms" factor. Hence we think it would not be appropriate to publish categorical diagnostic data...
in addition this. Also this paper is about the socio-demographic details of the sample rather than the
diagnostic categories which will be included as part of the genotyping analyses

We have revised the age of onset and age at interview data from each site including the Tukey post hoc
tests on page 10 as required by Reviewer PRJ.

We have also addressed all the formatting changes required and added a Declaration of Interests and
Authors’ Contributions section.

We hope that this draft is now acceptable for publication.

Yours Sincerely

Anne Farmer