Author's response to reviews

Title: The Cedar Project: Rapid increase of HCV infection in a longitudinal study of young Aboriginal people who use drugs in two Canadian cities

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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BMC Public Health

Dear Dr. Patel,

Please find enclosed the resubmission of our manuscript entitled, “The Cedar Project: High incidence of HCV infections in a longitudinal study of young Aboriginal people who use drugs in two Canadian cities”.

We thank you very much for the opportunity to resubmit this manuscript and hope that we have satisfactorily addressed the suggestions of the Reviewers and the Editorial Board. In particular, as suggested by one reviewer, we revised our multivariate strategy to include more covariates by relaxing our inclusion criteria to variables that were significantly associated with HCV infection at the p<0.10 level. To this end, we chose to use a backward stepwise approach for the adjusted Cox regression analysis. Additionally, we addressed the possibility that gender was a confounder in the association between HCV infection and involvement in sex work by forcing gender into the model and also by testing for interactions. After exploring this possibility, we are confident that gender was not a confounder in this case and that our final model is acceptable.

If you have any further questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

With Best Wishes,
Patricia Spittal, PhD

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