Author’s response to reviews

Title: From the set-up of a screening program of breast cancer patients to the identification of the first BRCA mutation in the DR Congo

Authors:

Gertrude Luyeye Mvila (gluyeye@yahoo.fr)
Chantal Van Ongeval (chantal.vanongeval@uzleuven.be)
Sandra Postema (sandra.postema@uzleuven.be)
Guy Marchal (guy.marchal@uzleuven.be)
Erik Van Limbergen (erik.vanlimbergen@uzleuven.be)
Fons Verdonck (fons.verdonck@med.kuleuven.be)
Gert Matthijs (gert.matthijs@uzleuven.be)
Koen Devriendt (koen.devriendt@med.kuleuven.be)
Genevieve Michils (genevieve.michils@uzleuven.be)

Version: 2 Date: 25 November 2013

Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear Sir

In addition to the first cover letter (contents below, attachment), please find herewith, as requested in your mail of November 19, 2013, the point-by-point description of the necessary changes.

1. Competing interests
   We declare that there are no financial nor non-financial competing interests.

2. Acknowledgements
   We acknowledge the following 3 organizations for Development Cooperation of the KU Leuven (Belgium): the Alumni Association of the Faculty of Medicine, the Leuvense Universitaire Medische Ontwikkelings samenwerking en Solidariteit (LUMOS) and the Marc Vervenne Foundation for travel support and equipment.

3. Ethics
   We have completed the METHODS section as follows:
   The study has been approved by the ethics committee of the General Hospital of Kinshasa. All women who participated in this study have been informed about the procedures and signed the relevant questionnaire.

4. Furthermore, we have changed the description of figure 2 (clarification):
   Figure 2. Distribution of breast cancer for the different age categories

   We hope our manuscript is now ready for peer review.

Sincerely yours

Prof C Van Ong eval

Enclosure: Contents of first cover letter
Dear Sir

As BMC Public Health focuses on the social determinants of health and the impact of health policies on the community, we have chosen to submit our manuscript to this journal. As a matter of fact, the first author, Dr G Luyeye, is focusing on the health of women in the DR of Congo by promoting and educating these women on breast self-examination in order to identify breast cancer early in its process.

Furthermore, for the set-up of this campaign the strategy described by Bridges in *BMC Health Serv Res* 2011, 11:227 (Bridges JF, Anderson BO, Buzaid AC, *et al*: Identifying important breast cancer control strategies in Asia, Latin America and the Middle East/North Africa.) was used.

We are not aware of breast cancer awareness campaigns in the Democratic Republic of Congo and it would be a great honor for this project if the publication of this manuscript could motivate other communities to initiate programs for the detection of cancer within the young population.

Yours sincerely

Prof dr Chantal Van Ongeval

PS No potential competing interests.