Author's response to reviews

Title: Time Trends in the Impact Factor of Public Health Journals

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Reviewer 1

1. The two references suggested by Rev 1 have been included in new version with respective comment. One of them was published after the submission of the manuscript. We thank the information and agree that the references are very suitable for the article.

2. We have changed the abbreviations by full titles of the journals in the text.

3. A new comment about the journals destiny of the truly important works in core journals is included in discussion section.

4. Definition of Impact Factor according to ISI Company is included in methods section.

Reviewer 2

1. We agree that high impact factor journal do not necessarily imply high quality of the articles published in these journals but, in opinion of many authors, there is a high correlation among quality and impact factor.

2. The selection of the journal for paper submission depends on several things: type of the paper and suitability for the journal, speciality and originality/quality/scientific social relevance of the paper. The extraordinary relevant papers are published in very few journals with the highest impact factor and possibly not related with the original speciality of the author. The focus of our paper is not these extraordinary papers but the normal scientific production in public health field.

3. A comment is included in discussion section about the motives for an increase or decrease impact factor trend.

4. We have tried the reviewer suggestion about the graphical representation of the impact factors by journal IF deciles, but the result is not satisfactory. A great part of the individual journal information is lost and many of our colleges could miss this individual journal information. Journals in figure are in alphabetical order making easy to find a specific journal.