Author's response to reviews

Title: Work-related musculoskeletal disorders among Nigerian Physiotherapists.

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Version: 2 Date: 28 March 2008

Author's response to reviews: see over
March 26, 2008

The Editor-in-Chief,

Find enclosed the revised manuscript titled “Work-related musculoskeletal disorders among Nigerian Physiotherapists’. The reviewers’ comments have been addressed and given below.

**Reviewer 1: Dr. Linda A. Merlino**

1. The data on table 1 has been re-presented for clarity. The heading ‘N’ on the second column has been deleted and the entire third column deleted. The value of ‘n’ has been included in front of all continuous and dichotomous variables. The numbers of all the characteristics have been reflected. We have also accounted for the missing subjects in some of the characteristics.

2. Table 3: has been re-presented in three columns instead of four. Column two now reflects those reporting WRMSDs (N, %) and those not reporting WRMSDs (N, %). The criteria for choosing the cutpoints for dichotomizing the continuous variables in our study have been addressed (page 4, paragraph 3, line 2-6. We believe this will make our results more discussable in the light of similar studies, since majority of previous studies have treated the data in the same manner.

3. Table 4 has been deleted and its findings stated in the text with N’s and % values provided as suggested (Page 5 paragraph 4, line 1-3).

4. The percentages of the data on table 5 were based on collapsing the likert scale values (3 & 4) into category of significant and using this as a percentage of the total of responses for each item. More information on this has been provided in the text (Page 5, paragraph 5, line 5-8). Also the N value for each category of response has been included (table 4, page 16).

5. Table 6: The N values have been provided for each cell (table 5, page 17).

6. The number on which the data in figure 1 were generated has been included (frequency) and the scale on the Y-axis has been increased to 100 as suggested (figure 1, page 14).

7. Figure 2 has been deleted and its findings presented under results (Page 5, paragraph 3, line 3-4).

8. The result of the association of age with WRMDs was given on table 3, page 15, and the discussion of the result on age and WRMDs was given on page 7, paragraph 3, line 4-
14. Also, the influences of cultural values and practices that may impact on WRMDs have been included in the discussion (Page 7, line 7-13).

**Reviewer 2: Dr. A Burdof.**

**Major Compulsory Revisions**

1. The ambiguity in the use of the terms ‘Work related MSDs’ and ‘MSDs’ has been clarified. We have indicated in the INTRODUCTION that work is only a contributory factor to the occurrence of MSDs. Also, additional references have been added to support this view (Page 3, paragraph 1 line 10-13).

2. Page 5, paragraph 2: The paragraph has been deleted as suggested to prevent an overlap with the previous paragraph.

3. Page 7, paragraph 2, line 13-15: The influence of recall bias on onset of injury has been included in the discussion as suggested.

4. Page 7, paragraph 3: Attention has been paid to the specificity of risk factor to MSDs (line 12-13, page 7 and line 1-5, page 8) and the implication for the self report nature of the risk factors discussed in our study (page 8, line 5-7).

5. The over interpretation of the discussion on ergonomic training has been deleted.

**Minor Essential Revisions**

1. The term ‘rate’ as used in the manuscript has been appropriately changed to ‘prevalence’, thus:

**Background**

Page 3, paragraph 3 line 3: ‘lowest rate’ changed to ‘lowest prevalence’.

**Result**

Page 4, paragraph 4, line 2: ‘response rate’ changed to ‘percentage response’

**Discussion**

Page 6, paragraph 1, line 3; ‘Response rate’ changed to ‘percentage response’

Page 6, paragraph 1, line 3: ‘response rates’ changed to ‘responses’

Page 6, paragraph 1, line 7: ‘response rate’ changed to response’

Page 6, paragraph 1, line 8: ‘response rate’ changed to ‘response’

Page 6, paragraph 4, line 2. ‘rate’ changed to ‘prevalence’
2. More information on the psychometric properties of the questionnaire has been provided (Page 4, paragraph 2, line 11-13).

3. Table four has been deleted and presented in the text as suggested (page 5, paragraph 4 line 1-3).

4. More literature on gender differences have been added to make the discussion more informative (page 6, paragraph 3, line 3-14).

5. The discussion on the higher prevalence of WRMDs among Nigerian physiotherapists has been expanded to reflect the possible cultural influence on reporting WRMDs (page 7, line 2-5).

Thank you

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