Author's response to reviews

Title: Use of Next Generation Sequencing Technologies in Research and Beyond: are participants with mental health disorders fully protected?

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Re: Editorial submission “Use of Next Generation Sequencing Technologies in Research and Beyond: are participants with mental health disorders fully protected?”

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are submitting our manuscript entitled “Use of Next Generation Sequencing Technologies in Research and Beyond: are participants with mental health disorders fully protected?” for consideration to be published in BMC Medical Ethics Journal as a review paper.

Following a systematic review of studies, reviews, commentaries and letters published in the last five years on ethical and social issues raised by NGS technologies and genomics studies on mental disorders, we identified the importance, and further analyzed the social and ethical implications of Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) in research on mental health disorders, in particular on Bipolar affective Disorders from the participants’ protection perspective. Application of NGS is expected to help finding the elusive causative genetic defects associated to various complex traits. Bipolar Disorders are among those conditions to greatly benefit from the use of NGS. Since the informed consent process is one of the most basic elements in the protection of human subjects in research, we discuss some elements of the consent form and consent process in mental health in light of the amount of information generated through NGS. To our knowledge, ours is the first review addressing the impact of NGS in research on Bipolar Disorders.

We trust that the manuscript will be of broad interest to the readership of BMC Medical Ethics and to medical researchers while hopefully bridging existing gaps between the medical and social science research domains in mental health. We declare no potential competing interests.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

With kind regards,

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