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
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BMC Medical Ethics
Prof. Akira Akabayashi, Editor

Re: Editorial submission “Use of Next Generation Sequencing Technologies in Research and Beyond: are participants with mental health disorders fully protected?” MS: 4554642747182471

Dear Professor Akabayashi,

We considered Reviewer 2’s comment received last October 10, 2012 on revising the reference list, and made a few changes accordingly. These new changes are listed on a point-by-point format in the page that follows this letter.

In addition, please note that IJG declaration of competing interests has been modified since initial submission of this manuscript.

Attached please find our revised manuscript.

We hope that our response and amendments we have brought to our previous version meet with your approval and that you find the revised manuscript acceptable for publication.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration, we look forward to hearing from you.

With kind regards,

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Reviewer 2’

Please check the reference list whether all references have been referred to adequately

“Background”
Page 4 on Paragraph “The use of NGS...” The sentence “BD patients...” has been slightly modified and the place of citation was changed. It now reads: “BD patients are in a fairly vulnerable position [2] with regard to the significance.....may have on their lives. The latter heightened in genetic research.”

“NGS in Research applied to complex traits”
Page 5:
Line 9: “Lower costs....and exome sequencing”, reference 5 was changed for 6
Line 12: References 9 and 10 are now 10 and 9 respectively. A short sentence was added and lines 9 to 12 now read: “The latter is currently the least expensive and a highly reliable alternative to WGS in uncovering genetic defects associated with various complex traits, particularly when combined with sequencing exome flanking non-coding regions [8, 9]. Sanger sequencing of these additional regions has also shown their significance [10].”

“Reasons for diversity”
Page 7, last paragraph: “Linkage, association and candidate gene... enhances genetic study results [1].” One reference was changed and one was added. The sentence now reads “could enhance” instead of enhances, and references now read [12, 16]. The sentence “Although many of these...targeted sequences” now includes the following references: [5, 6, 9].

“Feedback, return of results and incidental findings”
Page 14, reference 3 was changed for 4 and 33 for 21.

“References”
Page 24:
Reference 9 is now number 10, and reference 10 is now number 9
Page 26:
Reference 35 now reads “Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Natural Sciences ... Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans, December 2010
Reference 36 now reads Smith Apold V, Downie J, instead of Apold VS, Downie J
Reference 39 reads Bielby instead of Bielbi.