Author's response to reviews

Title: Awareness and Management of Chronic Disease, Insurance Status, and Health Professional Shortage Areas in the REasons for Geographic and Racial Differences in Stroke (REGARDS): A Cross-Sectional Study

Authors:

Raegan W. Durant (rdurant@uab.edu)
Gaurav Parmar (gparmar@dopm.uab.edu)
Faisal Shuaib (faisalshuaib@uab.edu)
Todd M Brown (tmbrown@uab.edu)
David L Roth (droth@uab.edu)
Martha Hovater (mlovater@uab.edu)
Jewell H Halanych (jhalanych@uab.edu)
James M. Shikany (jshikan@uab.edu)
Ronald J Prineas (rprineas@wfubmc.edu)
Tandaw Samdarshi (tsamdarshi@umc.edu)
Monika M Safford (msafford@uab.edu)

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Jigisha Patel MRCP, PhD
Series Editor – Medicine,
BMC Health Services Research
BioMed Central Ltd
Floor 6 236 Gray's Inn Road
London WC1X 8HB
United Kingdom

Dear Dr. Patel:

I am submitting the manuscript “Awareness and Management of Chronic Disease, Insurance Status, and Health Professional Shortage Areas in the REasons for Geographic And Racial Differences in Stroke (REGARDS): A Cross-Sectional Study” for consideration for publication in the *BMC Health Services Research*. In our manuscript, we sought to examine variation in awareness, treatment, and control of hypertension, diabetes, and hyperlipidemia according to both geographic and financial access to care.

We utilized the diverse national REGARDS cohort to determine if residence in a federally-designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) and insurance status impacted the diagnoses and management of hypertension, diabetes, and hyperlipidemia. Though we found few differences in awareness or treatment regardless of HPSA residence or insurance status, we did find lower control for hypertension exclusively among uninsured HPSA residents. These data highlight the potential vulnerability faced by uninsured persons with low geographic access to primary care physicians. Our results may help to inform the future allocation of federal resources to HPSAs and other underserved areas.

I will be serving as the corresponding author, and I take full responsibility for the contents of the paper. Thank you for your consideration of this manuscript for publication.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Raegan W. Durant, MD, MPH