Author's response to reviews

Title: Trends in the Types and Quality of Childhood Immunisation Research Output from Africa 1970-2010: A Systematic Review of the Published Literature.

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Dear Editor,

Thank you for considering our manuscript entitled “Trends in the Types and Quality of Childhood Immunisation Research Output from Africa 1970-2010: Mapping the Evidence Base” for publication in your journal.

The following changes have been made to the manuscript:

Reviewer 1:

• Regarding Reviewer 1’s comment on including only studies published in English, the authors have noted this as a limitation on page 13.

Reviewer 2:

• The Title of the manuscript has been changed to “Trends in the Types and Quality of Childhood Immunisation Research Output from Africa 1970-2010: Mapping the Evidence Base”

• The description of measuring quality if research “A journal with an impact factor of greater than zero but less than two was said to be of ‘moderate quality’; a journal with an impact factor of two to five was said to be of ‘good’ quality; a journal with an impact factor of five to ten of ‘very good’ quality; and any journal with an impact factor greater than ten of ‘excellent’ quality. This classification was produced by the authors.” has been moved to the Methods section in the main text.

• We were not able to identify any study that had used impact factor cut-offs to assess quality of research in a similar manner, hence the authors produced their own classification system.

• A statement has been added to the limitations paragraph on page 13, “Quality of research was assessed using journal impact factors as a proxy, and this may not be an accurate reflection of the true quality of the individual studies”
All changes have been made using track-changes in the main document that has been submitted.

I hope you find these corrections in order.

Kind regards,

Shingai Machingiadze
Research Coordinator