Author's response to reviews

Title: Improving motivation and retention of health professionals in developing countries: a systematic review

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Formatting changes requested

- Major revisions

1) Reference xxx, Submitted/ unpublished - Articles that have not been accepted for publication should not be cited in the reference list, unless they are publicly available as a pre-print). Instead, please refer to them in the text in the following way: (Authors: Title of manuscript, submitted). - See reference 25 and 34.

*Reference 25* Stilwell (2001) is an internal report from the WHO, and so the reference has been changed to:


*Reference 34* Mangham and Hanson has now been accepted for publication in Tropical Medicine and International Health and so the reference is now:


2) Table vertical elements - Please note that we are unable to display vertical rules within the tables nor are we able to write text vertically within the cells - please re-layout your table without these vertical elements. We are unable to correctly display merged cells where the merged cell crosses rows.

*There is now no vertical text; it has all been changed to horizontal.*

3) Tables as additional files - We notice that you have included the tables as additional files. If you want the tables to be visible within the final published manuscript please include them in the manuscript in a tables section following the references. Alternatively, please cite the files as Additional file 1 etc., and include an additional files section in the manuscript.

*We did wish Table 1 to be visible in the final published manuscript and so it has been removed from being an additional article to following on from the references.*

- Minor revisions

4) Title - Please use sentence case in the title, both in the manuscript file and the submission system i.e. remove all unnecessary capitals (capitalise only the first word, and proper nouns, and no full stops/periods). For example you would
change 'The Title of My Prestigious Publication: A Scientific Study'. To 'The title of my prestigious publication: a scientific study'.

This has been done. The title now reads

Motivation and retention of health workers in developing countries: a systematic review

5) Please change 'Figures' to 'Figure legends'.

This has been done

6) Figure cropping - It is important for the final layout of the manuscript that the figures are cropped as closely as possible to minimise white space around the image. Our online figure guide contains full details for preparing files for submission and can be viewed here:

The figure (figure 1) has been cropped as closely as possible.