Author's response to reviews

Title: Quantity and Quality of Obesity-related Research in Arab Countries: Assessment and Comparative Analysis

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear editor,

Thanks a lot for the comments. I revised the manuscript based on the comments received. Here is my response:

Comment
While the authors say in the methods section that they adjusted for GDP and population size #a comment made by Vieque# , they in fact have not adjusted for population size in Table 1. The fact that GDP includes the population figure for its calculation, what the reviewer requests is that the authors estimate the number of papers per 1,000 population, or a similar measure. Furthermore, the results as presented in Table 1 are not discussed.

Response
I recalculated the research productivity from each Arab country based on population size and the results were expressed as number of documents per million inhabitants. The previous calculations based on GDP were deleted. Detailed discussion about the results of Table 1 was presented in the discussion as well.

Comment
I would add that the results section reports the distribution of topics related to obesity research. However, the methods section does not state how this was done. This is a very important result and merits presentation in greater detail as well as discussion. For example, how have the research topics evolved through time? To what extent is public health gaining ground? What are the countries that pay greater attention to public health topics, or to other highly occurring topics?

Response
I stated in the methodology how we extracted data about research areas and we presented 1 extra table and 2 extra figures for the emergence of research areas with time. Particular emphasis was made on epidemiology-related research output pertaining to obesity in Arab countries.