Author's response to reviews

Title: Metformin Treatment in Diabetes and Heart Failure: When Academic Equipoise Meets Clinical Reality?

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Author's response to reviews:

January 30, 2009

Dear Julian Desmond,

Thank you for your e-mail of January 19th and the opportunity to revise and resubmit our manuscript. We have made several changes in the revised manuscript and have addressed as many of the concerns as possible. Due to our two staged screening process and institutional ethical approval, we were unable to collect information that was not “demographic” in nature or directly related to our inclusion/exclusion criteria in screened patients. As such, as we indicate below we do not have information on ejection fraction, although this would have been collected in the patients were to be enrolled in the study.

Our specific changes are as follows for Reviewer #2 (Reviewer #1 had no quires)

1. Table 1 and 2 need to be merged
   We have merged the tables as requested

2. Body weight, crcl for the 2 groups must be stated
   We have included this information into Table 1

3. Duration of treatment with metformin must be stated as well
We did not specially collect information on the duration of treatment of metformin during the screening portion of the trial. This information was to be included for patients that were actually enrolled in the study. That said, we added the following information to page 8.

“Although the duration of therapy with metformin in these patients was not ascertained, 4 subjects with heart failure were newly initiated on metformin during their hospitalization.”

1. No need to state the "acarbose" in table 2.

This has been removed

2. Ejection fraction of the patients need to be stated, if available !!

Unfortunately, due to our two staged screening process and institutional ethical approval, we were unable to collect information that was not “demographic” in nature or directly related to our inclusion/exclusion criteria in screened patients. As such, we do not have information on ejection fraction; although this would have been collected in the patients were to be enrolled in the study.

We thank the Editor and Reviewers for their thoughtful suggestions which we believe have strengthened our manuscript. All co-authors are aware of the edits to the manuscript and have agreed to its resubmission. Thank you for your continued consideration of this manuscript.

Sincerely,

Dean T Eurich for Ross T Tsuyuki, Sumit R Majumdar, Finlay A Mcalister, Richard Lewanczuk, Marcelo C Shibata and Jeffrey A Johnson.