Author's response to reviews

Title: TransthOracic approach to Persistent Atrial fibrillation First. The TOP-AF trial: a controlled randomized trial of a staged minimally invasive approach to persistent atrial fibrillation

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Sir,

the required revision have been included in the revised manuscript:

1) Compliance with Helsinki declaration, 2) Informed consent of the participants, authors' contribution and conflict of interests 3) Figure legend. No funding is necessary for the study.

The ethics committee of Catanzaro gave full approval. We are e-mailing the material to Mrs Simmons at the editorial office.

Yours truly
Claudio Pragliola