Author's response to reviews

Title: A rasch model to test the cross-cultural validity in the positive and negative syndrome scale (PANSS) across six geo-cultural groups

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Editorial Review Board,
BMC Psychology
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To: Editorial Review Board,

Enclosed is the original manuscript for review and possible publication in BMC Psychiatry. The manuscript is titled “A Rasch model to test the cross-cultural validity in the Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale (PANSS) across six geo-cultural groups.” The authors would like to note that the study is a post hoc analysis and represents a secondary analysis of existing data, therefore is not a clinical trial and does not have a clinicaltrial.gov study number. The authors greatly appreciate your review and feel the topic of cross cultural differences in outcome measures in psychiatry would be advantageous to the field of schizophrenia research and psychometrics.

This study came about from our observations in differences in the way specific items on rating scales are scored based on cultural, language and geographic regions. The authors and I feel this study is an extension of previously published analysis by our group on the PANSS in your journal, and hope that our manuscript can affect psychiatry, clinical research and clinical practice. The authors would like to thank the reviewers and editors, in advance, for their assistance in making this manuscript better and for consideration of publishing the manuscript in your journal, where it will reach both clinicians and scientists.

The manuscript was submitted on May 8th, 2012 and an email communication was obtained on September 20th, 2012 to provide additional information. As a result the following was added:

1. Methods Section: Confirmation with name (and corresponding number) of IRB approval
2. Methods Section, Subsection Data: additional information on where the data was obtained from was added (see Lines 1 – 5 of Paragraph 1, under ‘Data’ subsection).

I look forward to complying with any further recommendations of the reviewers and editors. This study did not receive any financial support and is an original unpublished work which has not been submitted to any other journals for reviews.

If you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail at AKhan@nki.rfmh.org or at 646-672-6005.

Sincerely,

Anzalee Khan, PhD
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