Author's response to reviews

Title: Chronic Diseases are Important Determinants of Self-reported Health among Older Adults

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The authors would like to thank editors for careful review of our manuscript and providing us with their comments to improve the quality of the manuscript. The following responses have been made to address all of the comments in a point–by-point fashion.

1. Comment: “Competing Interests: Please be advised that manuscripts must include a ‘Competing interests’ section. This should be placed after the Conclusions/Abbreviations. If there are none to declare, please include the statement ‘The authors declare that they have no competing interests.’ ”

Response: We have added "Competing Interests: The authors declare that they have no competing interests." on page 14.

2. Comment: “Research involving human subjects, human material, or human data, must have been performed in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki (http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/index.html) and must have been approved by an appropriate ethics committee. Experimental research on vertebrates or any regulated invertebrates must comply with institutional, national, or international guidelines, and where available should have been approved by an appropriate ethics committee. A statement detailing what ethical approval has been obtained, including the name of the ethics committee and the reference number where appropriate, must appear in all manuscripts. If a study has been granted an exemption from requiring ethics approval or does not require approval, this should also be detailed in the manuscript (including the name of the ethics committee that granted the exemption). For all research involving human subjects, informed consent to participate in the study should be obtained from participants (or their parent or guardian in the case of children under 16) and a statement to this effect should appear in the manuscript.”

Response: We have added "Ethical approval: Office of Human Research Office at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has reviewed this study and has
granted an exemption [IRBIS reference ID: 114633].” on page 14.