Author’s response to reviews

Title: Comparative study of sickle cell anemia and hemoglobin SC disease: clinical characterization, laboratory biomarkers and genetic profiles

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To: Dr. Nawsheen Boodhun
Managing Editor, BMC Hematology

From: Authorship of the manuscript entitled “Comparative study of sickle cell anemia and hemoglobin SC disease: clinical characterization, laboratory biomarkers and genetic profiles” (BHEM-D-16-00045)
Subject: Rebuttal letter

Thank you for allowing us to revise our manuscript entitled “Comparative study of sickle cell anemia and hemoglobin SC disease: clinical characterization, laboratory biomarkers and genetic profiles” (BHEM-D-16-00045). We thank the editor for the careful perusal of our manuscript and thoughtful comments, which certainly have improved it. We would like to thank you for your kindly to let us revised our previous version. We hope that the manuscript is now suitable for publication.

Sincerely,

Marilda Souza Goncalves, Ph.D.

Editor's comments:

1) We noticed that figure 1 contains a map image. Please confirm that you own the copyright of the map image or have received approval from the copyright holder for use and publication of the map image in an open access journal under a creative commons licence. We would like to confirm it is ok for you to include this as we find that some authors include Google Map images which cannot be used due to copyright constrictions.

Answer: The map depicted in figure 1 was designed by us. We elaborate the map according to the results obtained from the patients that we evaluated.

2) Please include a sample size calculation

Answer: Considering the cross-sectional nature of the study, the sample size calculation was performed on StatCalc, Epi Info, v.6.04 with a power of 95% and two-sided confidence level of 95%. Thus, we identify that a sample-size of 200 individuals with sickle cell disease (SCD) would be a significant representation of the population, taking account a frequency of 1/650 children with SCD in Bahia state. Lines 98-103.
3) Please confirm if it was written informed consent that was obtained from the participants. Where participants are children, please confirm if the consent was obtained from the parents/guardian of the child. Please ensure that a statement to reflect this is entered in the paper.

Answer: In methods section, we added, “Informed consent form was obtained from all adult participants as well as from parents or guardians of the children that assigned the informed consent form prior to the enrollment in the study. The study protocol was approved by the Ethics Research Board of the Gonçalo Moniz Institute of the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (IGM-FIOCRUZ-BA) following the ethical principles of the Declaration of Helsinki of 1975 and its revision.” Lines 106-111.