Author's response to reviews

Title: A combination strategy for enhancing linkage to and retention in HIV care among adults newly diagnosed with HIV in Mozambique: study protocol for a site- randomized implementation science study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Philippa Harris  
Executive Editor  
*BMC Infectious Diseases*  

Dear Ms. Harris,

Please find our manuscript, “A combination strategy for enhancing linkage to and retention in HIV care among adults newly diagnosed with HIV in Mozambique: Study protocol for a site-randomized implementation science study,” attached for your consideration as an Original Paper in *BMC Infectious Diseases*.

The paper describes the study protocol for an implementation science study designed to determine the effectiveness of a package of practical, evidence-based interventions on the delivery of HIV care. Study findings will be used to provide evidence on the effectiveness of the interventions in “real-life” service delivery settings, as well as the incremental effectiveness of the interventions with the inclusion of a financial incentive. As a study protocol that details the design of a combination intervention strategy with the potential to impact clinic-based approaches to HIV care and management, the paper aligns well with the aims of *BMC Infectious Diseases* and the interests of its readership. Furthermore, the study should be of particular interest to those interested in efforts to increase linkage and retention in HIV care in resource-limited settings.

This work has not been previously published and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. All authors report no conflicts of interest relevant to this article. All authors have seen, approved, and contributed significantly to this manuscript. We suggest the following unbiased individuals as potential reviewers for this manuscript: Bruce A Larson, PhD (blarson@bu.edu) and Mark A Micek, MD, MPH (mmicek@u.washington.edu).

The study has received both ethical and funding approval, and documentation of these approvals has been forwarded to BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com. This study received external funding from USAID, and as such the study protocol has undergone peer-review by the funding body. This is an ongoing study in which the investigators are still collecting and analyzing data. No other publications containing the results of this study have been published or submitted to any journal. No revisions were made to the study protocol manuscript that was originally submitted on September 18th, 2014.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate in contacting me. If I am unavailable, Roberta Sutton, can be reached at the same address, phone 212-342-4640, and email rbs2150@columbia.edu. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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