Author's response to reviews

Title: Organizational and Financial Analyses of Current HIV/STD Testing Services in South China to Inform a Social Entrepreneurship Model: A Sequential Mixed Methods Study

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Dear BMC Infectious Diseases Editors,
Dear Editors,

This cover letter accompanies the submission, "Organizational and Financial Analyses of Current HIV/STD Testing Services in South China to Inform a Social Entrepreneurship Model: A Sequential Mixed Methods Study." The Global Fund is constricting and other international donors are pulling out of HIV/STD programs in low and middle income nations. The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention anticipates supporting 424,000 fewer HIV tests this year. Over two-thirds of men who have sex with men (MSM) globally are not reached by HIV prevention services. Now more than ever before, sustainable HIV/STD service models are needed. Our previous policy manuscript established the rationale for using social entrepreneurship to catalyze sustainable HIV/STD service delivery. Building on this foundation, we examine organizational and financial characteristics of HIV/syphilis MSM testing services and new pilot programs focused on revenue-generation for sustainability. For example, sales of point-of-care HIV/STD tests at community-based organizations (CBOs) could help expand testing while generating revenue to be re-invested in community-based organization health programs. This decentralized model will still require close connections to clinical services in order to ensure that infected individuals are linked and retained in care. Our research identifies several
scalable social entrepreneurship pilots that could make MSM HIV/syphilis testing more widespread, community-responsive, and ultimately sustainable. Importantly, we also articulate the limitations of this approach to guide future implementation research.

Our research is particularly well-suited to BMC Infectious Diseases because of its relevance to global health implementation. As an Associate Editor at BMC, I am familiar with the family of journals and their standards.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joseph Tucker