Author's response to reviews

Title: Syphilis in the economic center of South China: Results from a real-time web-based surveillance programme

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Before the peer review process, we have made some modifications to the format and language of our manuscript as requested. Many thanks!

Attached our revised cover letter as follows:

Dear Editor,

We would like to submit our manuscript entitled “Syphilis in the economic center of South China: Results from a real-time web-based surveillance programme” and wish it to be considered for publication in *BMC Infectious Diseases*.

Syphilis is one of the most important sexually transmitted diseases and has become a severe threat to health of population of all age groups. South China is currently suffering an insidious reemergence of syphilis. This study researched syphilis epidemics in the economic center of South China, Guangzhou where syphilis burden had tripled the national average. We analyzed epidemiological features and associated shifts over time. For instance, we reported that primary/secondary syphilis burden had slightly decreased over past nine years, among which cases in sexually active population decreased, while cases aged 50 years old or above show an annual increase. Married individuals, middle-school or high-school educated individuals and heterosexually infected individuals represented large share of reported primary/secondary syphilis cases. We also discussed the spatial patterns for syphilis of different disease stages at a more meaningful district level. 12 districts of Guangzhou could be classified into 3 epidemiological regions. These results may have important implications for control programs as they not only reflect the current situation of syphilis in South China, but also give advices on what subpopulations should be targeted for greater intervention and resource allocation and what districts are suffering similar and heavier syphilis burden and should be given more resources as well. We believe that this topic is of widespread interest of readers, because of the special economic position of Guangzhou in China, large population
and migrant involved, particularly heavy syphilis burden in the area, and this work’s guiding
significance for control programs.

This manuscript is our original work and is solely submitted to *BMC Infectious Diseases*. It has not been previously published or under consideration for publication elsewhere. All authors have read and approved the contents of the final version. We declare that we have no competing financial interests.

We deeply appreciate your consideration of our manuscript, and we look forward to hearing from you. Many thanks!

Yours sincerely,

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