Author’s response to reviews

Title: Characterizing the Disability Experience among Adults Living with HIV: A Structural Equation Model Using the HIV Disability Questionnaire (HDQ) within the HIV, Health and Rehabilitation Survey

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Author’s response to reviews:

April 15, 2019
Re: BMC Infectious Diseases - INFD-D-18-00566R3

Dear Dr. Cassady-Cain,

Thank you for your follow-up correspondence regarding the anticipated acceptance of our manuscript entitled: Characterizing the Disability Experience among Adults Living with HIV: A Structural Equation Model Using the HIV Disability Questionnaire (HDQ) within the HIV, Health and Rehabilitation Survey, for BMC Infectious Diseases.

We appreciate the review of our revised manuscript. We uploaded a revised version of the manuscript with revisions using track changes and highlighted in yellow. Our point-by-point response to comments is below. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Thank you, again for considering our manuscript for publication in BMC Infectious Diseases.
We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Kelly

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Editor Comments

1) There is an unacceptable overlap in text with previously published sources (some of these may be from your own previous work, but it will still need to be modified). In line with journal policies, please rewrite the following sections in original text: the abstract, the background section, lines 203-205, 225-234, 283-286, 299-305, 326-331, 375-378, 411-414, 441-455 and 504-508.

RESPONSE: Thank you for raising this issue. We revised the manuscript in the areas identified to reduce overlapping text with our previous work. For areas where there is a clear definition or overlap in text, we encompassed the text in quotation marks and cited the original source accordingly. We recognize the need for consistency between areas of the abstract and sections of the manuscript pertaining to our study aim, methodological approaches, and main results and our aim to maintain consistent when defining key concepts (e.g. disability). We trust that this revision will address the areas of overlap, however we welcome further specific suggestions for revision if needed.

Reviewer 2

2) Has the author addressed your concerns sufficiently for you to now recommend the work as a technically sound contribution? Yes
Reviewer comments: I appreciated that the authors took great care to revise the manuscript based upon my recommendations. I am not convinced that the arbitrarily defined effect size as well as the mean imputation of missing values are the best choice for this interesting work. Hopefully, authors will find these final comments helpful."

RESPONSE: We thank the reviewer for acknowledging that our revised manuscript sufficiently addressed the concerns. Recognizing the varying approaches associated with a priori effect size definitions and in addressing missing data, we anticipate our detailed description of our approach and limitations will assist readers in their interpretation of the study findings (Discussion; Page 27-28).

Additional Revisions

3) We revised reference #26 in the reference list from in press to published, which is an update since our last submission. Also, we added an update to the funding acknowledgements section.